
❖ News and Views From St. Paul's ❖

Vol. 11 Issue 11

November 2008

Upcoming Events

- Nov. 1: Saturday, All Saints' Day
Fall Clean-Up, p. 12
Daylight Saving Time ends (clocks BACK)
- Nov. 2: Sunday, All Saint's Sunday
9 AM, Worship
Ms Char Horst, Guest Preacher, p. 4
10:15 AM, Church School
10:30 AM, Adult Forum ~ Planned Giving
Stewardship Program Begins, p. 4
- Nov. 4: General Election Day
- Nov. 5: 5:30 PM, Wednesday Worship
- Nov. 7: 11 AM – 6 PM, Crafters Corner, p. 9
- Nov. 8: Saturday
12 Noon – 2 PM, Empty Bowl Project, ➡
- Nov. 9: Sunday, XXVI Pentecost
9 AM, Worship ~ Time & Talents
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10:30 AM, Adult Forum
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- Nov. 12: 5:30 PM, Wednesday Worship Charles Simeon
- Nov. 16: Sunday, XXVII Pentecost
9 AM, Worship ~ Treasure
10:15 AM, Church School
10:30 AM, Parish Brunch
Feed A Friend food collection, p. 5
- Nov. 17: 5:30 PM, Vestry Meeting
- Nov. 19: 5:30 PM, Healing Service & Eucharist
Elizabeth of Hungry
- Nov. 23: 9 AM, Last Sunday after Pentecost
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4 PM, Community Thanksgiving Service, p. 7
- Nov. 26: 5:30 PM, Wednesday Worship
- Nov. 30: Sunday, I Advent
9 AM, Worship

Looking Ahead

- Dec. 14: 2 PM, Lessons & Carols at St. Matthew's
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve
4 PM, Children's Service
11 PM, Festive Eucharist of Christmas

Empty Bowl Project ~ Nov. 8

In 1990 a high school art teacher in Michigan helped his students solve a problem of creativity—how to raise money for a food drive.

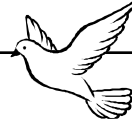
The solution was a class project to make ceramic bowls for a fundraising meal. Guests were served a simple meal of soup and bread and were invited to keep the bowl as a reminder of world hunger.

The project has now spread across the country and this year St. Paul's joins with the Summerhouse Grill and the Butternut Gallery & Second Story Books in bringing it to Susquehanna County.

Homemade soup and bread will be served from 12 Noon to 2 PM at St. Paul's Parish House. A \$10 donation at the door will give you a handmade bowl, homemade soup and bread with all the proceeds benefiting the Trehab food banks in Montrose and Oakland. The Susquehanna Food Banks serve an average of 438 families per month.

Along with the luncheon at St. Paul's, there will be a Silent Auction at the Butternut Gallery. The auction starts on Sunday, Oct. 26 at the Gallery. On that Sunday, Marilyn Anthony of the Summerhouse Grill will make a presentation at 1:30 PM. Then, at 3 PM on Nov. 8, after the luncheon, the Silent Auction will end at the Gallery.

All are invited to attend the luncheon and participate in the Silent Auction.



Dear Friends of St. Paul's,

It's Monday morning and I have just opened my email messages. To my surprise there was an email from one of our parishioners reflecting on yesterday's Children's Sabbath.

As you know we at St. Paul's are celebrating the Year of the Child, and have a special worship service the fourth Sunday of each month. Our Church School Scholars are the assistant ushers, greeters, and lectors. They also sing the anthem at the offertory. And, the homily is addressed to the children. I think it is a wonderful worship experience.

Perhaps you have noticed there are more families and children in church recently. They are even sitting in the front pews! Sometimes there is a lot of movement, and often some "child talk." No matter, when they all march up the aisle with their parents to the altar rail, it is with serious reverence. Just watch some Sunday.

Anyway, back to the email. Emails can be pretty flat and terse; it is hard to hear tone and emotion in them. In the subject line was just "Children's Service." Was this good or bad news? I opened the message and out poured this wonderful appreciation for bringing our children into the service, their smiling faces at the door welcoming everyone, their poise and comfort reading and singing, and their seriousness at communion. The message was thanking St. Paul's for a wonderful worship experience and for sharing the energy and enthusiasm of the children. Wow!

My first response to the email was to write thanking the parishioner for the laudatory comments, and then listing those who made the Sabbath so memorable: the dedicated and creative teachers; the talented choir director and pianist; the faithful parents; and, the receptive children who get up early on Sunday to worship and grow. However, when one stops and reflects, the list gets longer.

St. Paul's has a long and bright history of welcome, inclusion and innovation. It has been open not only to the community but to the future. The Parish House is but a symbol of that core characteristic. We must thank not only those who had vision to build it, but to maintain it. We must thank not only our current vestry for taking risky steps in supporting outreach programs, but to generations of vestries who have generated new, creative programs and spun them off to help the community – Day by Day being just one!

This coming year the plan is not only to repeat the Summer Music Camp, which welcomed 65 children this past summer, but also to expand to a Summer Arts (July) and Literacy Camp (August). This means financial support for the program AND the wonderful facilities that house them.

This coming month St. Paul's will gather as a community to express its vision of the future. You will be asked to make a thoughtful decision about its continued growth, and provide the time, talents, and treasure necessary to make it happen.

Oh, by the way, here are words that our Church School Scholars sang on Sunday:

"If you are searching for a place to belong,
I know a house where you can go.
A special family will welcome you there,
In a home where love can grow."

Charles Cesaretti

Stewardship and Philanthropy: The Christian Strategy with Regard to Funding Mission

by Terry Parsons

While we often talk about stewardship and philanthropy together when we talk about funding mission, they are different concepts.

Philanthropy

This approach relies upon the presentation of a "case" which outlines the needs being experienced by persons other than either the prospective donor or the solicitor. The solicitor presents the needs of the "other" and the ways in which they may be met or alleviated through the generosity of the donor. As the name implies, the appeal is to our love of humanity and desire to do good.

Key Elements

Primary strategy is focused on persuading a prospective donor to become involved in the mission of the organization doing the asking. The mission is the organization's. The money is the donor's. The assumption is that as a donor becomes more involved with the organization, the amount of their donations will increase. Organizations, therefore, look for opportunities to strengthen these relationships.

The relationship between solicitor and donor is very important. In deciding who should ask whom for a contribution, a key assumption is that it is important for peers to ask peers. In many communities, a "you support my cause and I'll support yours" quid pro quo is taken for granted.

Recognition Programs - These may take many forms, including: naming of buildings, rooms, positions (university teaching chairs); listing in publications and other donor lists; and a variety of physical acknowledgements such as plaques on furniture, art, trees, etc.

Stewardship

Stewardship teaches that all that we have and all that we are is a gift from God. We are, therefore, stewards of God's gifts during our lifetime. Discerning and carrying out God's purpose is the primary purpose of our lives. The gifts we have been given, time, talent, and money, are to be used for that purpose. The primary role of the church is to guide individuals in discernment of the mission for their lives and use of their resources in accomplishing it.

Key Elements

The primary objective of the organization (church) is to bring people into a closer relationship with God. Strengthening relationships with individuals is an important part of this but the goal is always to create an environment in which the relationship with God is strengthened.

The key strategy is to encourage individuals to discern the gifts God has given them and the work God is calling them to do. God is the source of the mission and the money. Both are gifts over which the giver exercises faithful stewardship.

Giving is taught as a significant spiritual practice. The Church encourages giving by providing a variety of opportunities to give. Giving is also seen as a joyful response to God's generosity to us.

Recognition is seen as a means of witness. The goal of recognition programs is to provide givers with an opportunity to express their faith and encourage others.

From The Alleluia Fund, A Guide for Dioceses and Congregations, published by the Office of Stewardship, Episcopal Church Center, 2002

Senior Warden letter:

The Vestry has been hard at work planning for the coming needs of St. Paul's. 2009 will bring many changes in our lives—some of them welcomed and anticipated, some of them challenging and difficult. In preparation for these changes, the vestry has been expanding and fine tuning our stewardship campaign. Additionally, recognizing that our time with Father Charles is drawing to a close, the vestry has reflected upon the work of our Search Committee and accepted their draft of a Parish Profile.

We sit at the edge of an amazing time. We have had remarkable leadership in the past three years: leadership that has opened doors and paved pathways for outreach, spiritual development, and program discernment. But we must decide to continue on this path.

So I ask you, when you receive literature regarding our 2009 Annual Fund Drive, take a moment to read it. When you see the invitation to a special brunch on November 16th, put the time aside—come, share an hour of time, share in our community of faith, and look ahead to what we can make of the future.

And I ask, when the Search Committee provides the parish profile, take a moment, review, reflect, and bring your thoughts to the meeting on the 16th.

The 16th will give us a chance to reflect on who we are, where we are, and where we want to be in the coming years. St. Paul's has become an integral part of the community, a warm and welcoming place for parishioners and visitors, and a model for church growth and development.

All this happens because of the planned giving of one individual (thanks Mrs. Post for the endowment) and the continued investment of one third of our members. In spite of this, we must all realize that stewardship is three fold—time, talent, and treasure. Our beautiful, historic building demands regular repair and maintenance. Our parishioners, young and not so young, need programs for education and formation, worship services that stimulate the senses, and resources that allow that to happen. Our outreach needs able and willing bodies and a rector too.

What about the rest? Will you return your pledge card? Will you fill out the questionnaire, volunteering to share you time and talents? We need you as we plan for the future. Please be there on the 16th, fill out your pledge card, and return your questionnaire. Together, we can make a difference, continue to open the doors, and live into the ministry of our mission.

It's an amazing time—Come and grow!

The Parish Profile Is Ready

The Search Committee announces availability of the parish profile, which is available at the back of the church. We encourage all members to pick up a copy for review. Please provide any comments, concerns or suggestions to any member of the Search Committee (Jane Chandler, Carol Marker, Sandy Schwab, Jerry Sock, Mary Jane Syle, Bernie Zalewski). If you are unable to pick up a copy, please call the church office and Brenda will mail you one.

Char Horst to Preach ~ Nov. 2

On Sunday, November 2, Char Horst, Missioner for Development for the Diocese of Bethlehem, will be the guest preacher at the 9 AM Worship and presenter at the Adult Forum. Char will present the kick-off for St. Paul's Stewardship Program.

A graduate of Harvard Law School, Char practiced law for many years in both Wall Street in New York and Main Street in Kutztown, PA. She works with individuals, parishes and clergy to encourage the planning of gifts to benefit future ministry and mission. She can be reached at chorst@diobeth.org.

Char will address the theme of planned giving and describe the St. Matthew's Society.

Church School Update:

THANK YOU St. Paul's! The Children's Sabbath in September was a huge success. Thank you, parishioners of St. Paul's, for welcoming the change. Thank you, Father Charles, for opening the door, for the inspirational liturgy, and for the engaging sermon.

The church school group felt the welcome and was thrilled to be a central part of the worship service. It was a chance for them to welcome you, to serve the church, and to embrace their history and their future at St. Paul's.

In October, the children presented their second anthem for this year. "Here is the Church." The words to their anthem are both moving and appropriate. "Here is the Church" recognizes the bond between children, adults, and Jesus: open doors, open hearts, and open minds.

The Worship For Life lessons about the sanctuary and the service have increased both our vocabulary and appreciation of our historic church. The children have drawn wonderful representations and then composed poems about the places they find most inspirational. In November, we will do a little play about appropriate behavior in church (especially when God is watching!).

Our children are coming to understand the flow of our Episcopal Service. They know the church, know how to serve, and how to be served by our community. After all, that is part of the beauty of a community of faith—we are here for each other, with each other, and part of the Good News.

And, as faithful servants, they join the adults in our house of worship—another place to call home. Again, thank you.

Did you see the tee shirts?

On October 19th, the scholars welcomed Nancy Finlon in for a special shirt-decorating day. Thanks Mrs. Finlon—can't wait to show off our artwork!

The Second Annual Halloween Party at St. Paul's

THANK YOU TO THE YOUTH GROUP FOR AN AMAZING SECOND ANNUAL HALLOWEEN HAUNTED HOUSE AND PARTY... The children were thrilled to be invited and to invite their friends to an amazing treat! It was a wonderful chance to be together, to celebrate, and to have fun. Many thanks to the youth group!

Thanksgiving Feed A Friend

Again this year St. Paul's joins in the annual Thanksgiving Feed A Friend in cooperation with Susquehanna Trehab and WNEP16.

Last year over 2,765 families and individuals in the tri-county area received Thanksgiving Dinners. Due to the current economic conditions, the partnership is planning for 3,000.

The familiar money canisters have been distributed to local businesses in our area. And, we have begun the food collection campaign. This year the churches participating in the program are contributing the dessert fixings: canned pie fillings and icings, boxed piecrust and cake mixes. Please bring these items to the Church and place them in the drop off area at the rear the sanctuary. The final day for contributions will be Sunday, November 16.

The Literacy Crossroads

This is the inaugural article in a series that I have had "brewing" in my head for several months since my journey back to graduate school to become a reading teacher. My desire is that the friends and families of St. Paul's will share my feelings of a need for a more literate community. As this column progresses toward the Summer months, you will begin to hear about a **literacy camp** that will become part of St. Paul's Spirit of Summer program. As the season approaches, I may ask for your help. In the meantime, please consider the following information.

Here are a few key facts about public and private school reading programs as they relate to our children's experiences in the schools populating our area:

- Most Reading Specialists and Reading Teachers that are employed by our schools are paid by a FEDERAL program called Title I (Title One). Title I is the largest federal funding program in education today.
- Title I programs primarily help those children who are not assisted by Learning Support (aka Special Education) but are still below grade level. Title I programs can cover up to 12th grade, but most often are present in schools only in a K-6 environment. Two of the schools that I visited had Title I covering K-3, and both of them were here in Susquehanna County.
- Title I funds are generated *on the basis of the number of students from low-income families who reside in participating public school attendance areas and also those who attend private schools in those areas.*

PERSONAL COMMENTARY: This means that, to a large degree, poverty equals illiteracy. Do you find this disturbing? I do. The worst part is that although not all of the kids in Title I are poor, Title I is usually *the sole means by which our financially strapped schools are able to help kids with reading problems.* All of the Title I programs that I have observed and worked with in Northeast PA are (in my humble opinion) underfunded and understaffed. Funding for reading help is sparse, but the ability to read independently in the early grades plays a huge factor in how a child will perform for the rest of their educational careers.

Without roots in reading, a child cannot successfully branch out into the content areas like science and history and realize their own potential. A student with low literacy abilities will fall farther and farther behind as the class material becomes more challenging.

What does this mean to us as parishioners, and parents, and grandparents? It means that the schools cannot handle the low literacy problem on their own, plain and simple. All families have to be actively involved in their children's literacy growth and make it a priority to read to their children and expose them to books. This involvement can literally change a child's life. Also, communities need to provide support like literacy camps, literacy centers, book drives, and book fairs. Story hours at libraries can be some of the most rewarding time you'll ever spend with kids. Above all, awareness of the impact of a child NOT reading has to be spread throughout the population. As faithful stewards of our children's educations, we need to be aware of this situation so that we can reinforce the efforts made toward their futures.

Next month's article will address adult literacy. I welcome your ideas and thoughts on this topic. Please email me at rocket24@epix.net. *Submitted by Mike Shingler*

Mystery Guest

I enjoyed the article in the last newsletter about the stained glass mystery person. I have no story or answers, but I did write this piece of prose.

Raise high your staff and sound your horn!
 You are our mystery guest
 and we welcome you with awe.
 So many questions have we;
 how eager we are to learn of you.

Tell us of your journey -
 why you stand upon a wheel
 and how you earned your angel wings.

Guided by a star
 with worn sandals upon your feet -
 how far has your journey been?
 Crown fixed upon your noble head,
 bandoleer across your robe
 with torch to guide.

Our young friend
 whose story reflects in colored glass
 and once known
 will reflect upon our hearts forever.

Submitted by, Mary (Welden) Stasko

**Annual Community
Thanksgiving Service
Sunday, Nov. 23, 4 PM**

The Annual Montrose Community Thanksgiving Service will be held on Sunday, November 23, at the United Methodist Church at 4 PM. The annual observance brings together the community for prayers of thanksgiving and celebration of God's bounteous gifts in creation.

The Combined Children's Choir of Montrose will sing at the service, and the offering is designated for the Susquehanna Trehab Food Banks.

In the middle of the American Civil War President Abraham Lincoln, prompted by a series of editorials written by Sarah Josepha Hale, proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day, to be celebrated on the final Thursday in November 1863:

"The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle, or the ship; the axe had enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years, with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.

"It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and voice by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.

"In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

"Done at the city of Washington, this third day of October, in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-eighth."

Proclamation of President Abraham Lincoln, 3 October 1863.

Since 1863, Thanksgiving has been observed annually in the United States.

Daughters of the King add Support to Food Bank and WRC

The Daughters of the King recently met and discussed the increased needs of some members of the community in light of today's threatening economy and agreed to actively support the monthly contributions of the parish to the Food Bank and the Women's Resource Center.

The **Women's Resource Center** provides a needed safe haven for women, often with children. Our Montrose branch has indicated that a key need arises when a woman finds housing and leaves the center. Cleaning supplies are always in demand, along with paper products. Pillows, pillowcases, towels, or even gift cards to department or home improvement stores are always helpful. Since many of the women have children, assorted sizes hats, scarves and coats are welcomed. **Donations to the local WRC will be collected at St. Paul's on the second Sunday of the month.** A basket has been placed at the rear of the church for these items, which may be brought in at any time prior to this date.

The **Food Bank** provides much needed food for individuals and families facing financial challenges. Recent statistics indicate that the current economy has had an extremely negative impact locally and the need for assistance has greatly increased and will continue to do so for months to come. Fuel costs also gravely impact on many households, sometimes necessitating a choice between heat and food. It is apparent the need for donations to the food bank is vital. Bags are available at the rear of the church with a list of needed items. Most non-perishable food items can be donated, along with personal care, paper goods and cleaning products. Fresh fruit and vegetables can be taken directly to the Food Bank. **The Food Bank collection date at St. Paul's will be changed to the last Sunday of the month, to coincide with Youth Sunday.** Food may be brought in prior to this date and placed in the collection area at the back of the church. (If you must leave it in the kitchen, please insure it is clearly labeled for the food bank.).

For a few dollars a month you can provide much needed assistance to insure that area residents are safe and fed. Please remember those in our community who are struggling each day.

Update on the Downstairs:

During the November 1 *Clean Up St. Paul's Day*, the downstairs will be revamped to allow for the growth and development of our children and young families. It is a wonderful space with rooms for all of our needs and wants. We hope to provide a welcoming space for children of all ages to find play space, learning space and space to relax, rejuvenate and connect with our inner spiritual selves. This will provide the opportunity to clean up, weed out, and embrace our mission to open our doors and our hearts to the Year of the Child at St. Paul's.

Our goals for the day include the following:

- 1/ to convert the red room from storage to a playroom/nursery
- 2/ to make a comfortable library (reading, relaxing, and researching) place in the Celtic room by the fireplace
- 3/to weed through the various supplies downstairs.

Please join in and help out. The church has open doors and wonderful spaces for each and every one of our members but it needs all of us to protect and maintain them.

Richard VanAuken to Perform in Binghamton

Richard VanAuken will be the featured musician on First Friday Series in Binghamton, NY on Friday, November 7, 2008 at the First Presbyterian Church, 42 Chenango Street, Binghamton, NY. Mr. VanAuken will be joined by his wife

Evelyn in organ duets by composers Callahan, Grieg and Sousa; Richard's solo works are by Bossi, Elmore, Boex and Miller.

Times are 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. and 7:30 to 8:15 p.m.
There is no cost for this event.

Submitted by Mary Ann Dewitt, 278-2791

Vespers Service & Supper Sunday, Nov. 9 at 5 PM

The monthly Vespers Service & Supper will be held at St. Paul's at 5 PM on Sunday, November 9. The communitywide service is held each month on the second Sunday of the month.

In November, the combined children's choir of Montrose will be presenting a special anthem.

The word, Vespers, means "night" and was said and sung at the end of the day in churches both in the East and West.

Since its inception, the Anglican Communion has maintained an evening office, which is called Evening Prayer (or Evensong). There are prescribed forms of the service in Lutheran and Anglican prayer books.

From its traditional usage, the term Vespers has come to be used more broadly for various evening services of other churches, some of which model their evening services on the traditional Roman Catholic form. Lutherans, Presbyterians, Methodists, as well as non-Christian religious bodies such as Unitarian Universalism, often include congregational singing, readings, and a period of silent meditation, contemplation, or prayer.

Some regular community vespers services are completely areligious (or at least are not sponsored by any church) and serve simply as a time for quiet contemplation in the evening hours.

The psalms and hymns of the Vespers service have attracted the interest of many composers, including Claudio Monteverdi, Antonio Vivaldi, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Anton Bruckner. (Sergei Rachmaninoff's "Vespers" is really a setting of the Eastern Orthodox all-night vigil.) In addition, the Rev. John Garcia Gensel in New York City in 1961 pioneered the now popular adaptation of Jazz Vespers.

All are welcome to the service and the light supper, which will be in the Parish House immediately following.

New Faces Appear At Crafters Corner Store Nov. 7 and Dec. 5

October brought new faces and new talents to the Crafters Corner Store, a trend that will continue in November. On Friday, November 7th, the Parish Hall will once again transform into a shopping center filled with original creations by local artists and crafters. The store will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. offering numerous decorative, gift, and household items. St. Paul's limited edition Christmas ornament and note cards will also be available for purchase. Our kitchen will offer numerous tasty options, with brunch available from 11:00 to 2:00 and dinner from 2:00 to 6:00. Proceeds from operation of the kitchen and the sale of ornaments and note cards will benefit St. Paul's Building Fund and lead to repairs and improvements in the facility.

With the approach of Halloween and Thanksgiving you can expect to find an array of decorative options, and of course it is never too early to start your holiday shopping.

Thanks to all who helped make the October grand reopening a success. Remember, the Crafters Corner store will be closed for the winter months, so November 7th and December 5th will be your final opportunities to select unique gift items.

Ecumen Chorale Concert Nov. 9, 3 PM

The Ecumen Chorale will present a concert at Covenant Presbyterian Church at the corner of Olive and Madison Sts, Scranton, PA, on Sunday, Nov. 9, at 3 PM. The public is invited and welcome.

Interfaith Christmas Bureau

St. Paul's has been asked to provide 200 bags of stuffing for the Christmas Dinner portion of the Christmas Bureau this year. The offering will be taken on Sunday, December 14. Watch for more information .

Take the Extra Step

Our **Adult Forum** is considering how ordinary people respond to “the Call.” The earliest followers of Jesus referred to themselves as “the people called out” We've been using a format entitled *No Experience Necessary*, and one of the articles we read was “Take The Extra Step.” That step is what's necessary to distinguish oneself as a member of this community of the *People Called Out on The Way*, the fellowship of the disciples of Jesus.

“To follow Jesus implies that we enter into a way of life that is given character and shape and direction by the one who calls us. To follow Jesus means picking up rhythms and ways of doing things that are often unsaid but always derivative from Jesus, formed by the influence of Jesus. To follow Jesus means that we can't separate what Jesus is saying from what Jesus is doing and the way that he is doing it.” Eugene Peterson, *The Jesus Way*

Here's an excerpt from a **Renovare** interview with Eugene H. Peterson, who points out the importance of continued learning and growth for everyone, regardless of age or experience:

“The common way in which the American church has used the Jesus Way is “the way to heaven.” It's pervasive in our culture that the end justifies the means. But the way Jesus does things is just as important as the way that he is. The way is the road, but it's the way you walk on the way, too. So I'm trying to recover a sense of the way as a way of doing things, not just signposts on how to get there. One of the phrases in *The Jesus Way* that I like a lot is an old phrase from Heraclitus, the Greek philosopher, who said, “The way up and the way down are the same way.” Well, the way we get to God and the way God gets to us is the same way: it's Jesus....so we have to look at how Jesus did it, not just what he did.

When spiritual formation becomes externalized, we're not doing it the way Jesus did it. It includes the whole life. We can't separate spiritual formation from the context in which we live. It's like raising kids: it's a constant thing. You never finish. And Jesus doesn't stop us on the way and say, OK, I think you've got it now.”....We're always discovering new ways in which people understand these things. This is where the creative work of the Holy Spirit is most evident”

Come join with us as we continue to learn how to listen to the call and discover how each of us can walk the path called the “Jesus Way.” As we often hear, WWJD? Or as the parables of The Teacher ask, “What would YOU do?” (For more information about Eugene Peterson go to <http://www.renovare.org>)

Hymn Story:

Take My Life and Let It Be

Frances Havergal (1836-1879) was an unusual woman. The daughter of a minister, she mastered Greek and Hebrew to read the scriptures in their original languages. Having grown up in England, she traveled in Europe and enjoyed skiing in the Swiss Alps -- an unusual recreation in the nineteenth century. She was also an accomplished singer who sometimes sang with the Philharmonic.

Havergal was a Christian all her life, but at age 36 experienced what we might describe as a conversion experience. A little book entitled *All for Jesus* made her aware of the incompleteness of her own devotion, and she rededicated her life to Christ.

Soon thereafter, she spent five days with a small group of people, some of whom were not Christians, and others of whom were lukewarm. She spent those five days witnessing to them and praying for them, and was delighted to see her prayers answered. By the end of that week, all ten people had devoted themselves to Christ. That night, too excited to sleep, Havergal sat up writing this hymn, "Take My Life and Let It Be."

Her devotion to Christ took many shapes. For one, she quit singing in secular venues and devoted herself to Christian music. For another, she donated her collection of jewelry to a missionary society to raise money for mission endeavors. But those were merely minor notes in the symphony of devotion that was Frances Havergal's life.

Reflection on Giving

Because I went to a workshop on stewardship, I have been reflecting on my life and its relation to money.

As soon as I graduated from college, I started working as a high school English teacher in Maine. Ultimately we moved to Pennsylvania where I also taught English.

When I became a mother, I stayed home and took care of my baby. My husband, another teacher, became the only wage earner in our little family. Teachers were not paid very much in the 1960's. We had very little money. Our second son was born, and we had even less money.

Finally, when both boys were in school, I was able to work for money. However, I could not find a job as a full-time teacher, so I became a substitute teacher. This made the difference. We had enough money to pay the taxes and take a long deserved vacation. However, I remember one more thing about having money again that we found more satisfying than almost anything else did. We had enough money to give some of it **away!** Giving money away was a great treat! I hadn't thought about this feeling for quite a long time. I intend to think about this every Sunday from now on.

Submitted by Jane Chandler

“I’m having a party. Come to my house?”

How many times have you used that phrase or one like it? It's nice to get one of those invites, right? What makes it so hard to do the same thing for God's house?

Fr. Charles asked me to consider the way we invite people to church. It's been a long time since I've invited someone to St. Paul's, or any other church for that matter.

The last one I remember was to a house guest that we had for a while this year. She was having problems in her marriage and Rita and I provided a safe haven for a while. She came once or twice, but there was no consistency. Strike one.

The one before than happened the previous year when the BoSA visited the prison south of town. He never showed at all. Strike two.

I can't recall inviting anyone else since we moved here in 2001. Strike three.

OK, maybe I'm not an evangelist. Aaargh! I used the “E” word! Fr. Charles sucked me into it! Let me retreat into my latest study of the Book of Revelation.

You know, of all the churches in Revelation, St. Paul wrote an epistle to Ephesians. I've read it a couple of times lately and ran across some familiar passages...you know, the ones in the marriage vows about husbands and wives. Or the ones about the family and how we should not discourage children. But before those verses there are ones in chapter 4 of St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

He is describing the characteristics of “the church”. You may even remember some of these. In chapter 4, verse 7 Paul says, “But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.” Then he continues and explains what some of these gifts are in verse 11. He says, “The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ...” There it is ... the “E” word! Now, I don't think I am quoting out of context here. I leave it to your judgement.

The way I read this verse is that SOME church members are given the gift of evangelism...not ALL! I like that! It gets ME off the hook. But there is one small hitch. The key topic of evangelism, for me, is whether I consider the general “not ALL” of us are evangelists or the more specific “not AL” is an evangelist. Maybe I should take a more proactive role and invite TWO people a year to St. Paul's...or more. You doing any better than me?

Submitted by Al Leigh(BoSA) BoSA
(Brotherhood of St. Andrew) = f(study, prayer, service)

From the Work Bench of the Junior Warden

November 1st

Come one – come all we will have something for everyone to do to help clean (inside and outside) and beautify our Historic St. Pauls. Bring your rakes, bring your ambition, bring your sense of humor and we will all have a good time cleaning our memorial garden and church.

Boilers

Since both boilers were manufactured in 1985 the Property Committee recommended to the Vestry to replace the two boilers at the same time. We had an estimate from Wilcox's General Services for around \$6800.00 to replace one boiler. So I can assume that the price will double for both boilers. I'm in the process of acquiring two or three additional estimates to replace the boilers.

Restrooms

We have a problem with the sewage line from the two restrooms in the basement. Early last summer we had Roto-rooter clean out the sewage line from the two restrooms to the main sewage line from the church. They worked great for a while but they are plugged again. Roto-rooter stated that the inside of the old cast iron pipe was not in the best of shape. The pipes should be dug up and replaced. I don't have the slightest idea what this will cost except it won't be cheap.

Items that were accomplished

1. Heating pipes under the church and in the crawl space were insulated.
2. Light bulbs in the Parrish Hall were changed to the energy efficient ones.
3. Old thermostats were replaced with new digital thermostats.
4. The door on Chestnut St. entrance was replaced with a new one.

Projects to Consider

1. Replacement of the boilers.
2. Replacement of the sewage lines in the basement.
3. Accessibility ramp - Points to ponder - We have a young parishioner in a wheel chair, we have a senior parishioner who just broke her hip, we have a lot of seniors citizen who use our building and a lot of us are starting down the other side of the hill. This will make it a lot easier on us to enter the building.
4. Painting of the trim on the outside of our building.

It's not easy or cheap to keep and maintain an old building, but it is ours and we should be proud of it.

Security Code Change — Chestnut St. Door

For security reasons, we are changing the code on the combination lock on the Chestnut St. door effective November 7. Anyone requiring the code should call the Parish office at 570-278-2954.

Lost Table

Has anyone "borrowed" the children's table from the kitchen? The children would love to have it back.

A Message From Your Finance Committee

Let's assume that we (the congregation of St. Paul's) own a manufacturing plant that makes the famous St. Paul's Widgets on three large machines. Due to a fire at the local electric distribution substation, we are told that we will only have enough electric power to produce one third the widgets that we had been producing for the next two years, until the power company can restore its supply capacity. In addition, one of their electric generating plants has worn out and the power supplied by it can not be immediately replaced. Looking at a reduction in profits for the year (and possibly two), St. Paul's vestry decides that we will sell some of our machinery in order to make up the difference in profits. We sadly accept a bargain price for one of our machines (it goes for scrap value since no one else currently has electricity to run it either), knowing that a production rate of one third of our previous production will not pay our operating bills.

One year later, a new wind farm comes on line on Osterhaut Mountain and the operator offers us more than sufficient power to increase our widget production back to full capacity prior to loss of power. However, since we have sold some of our machinery, we no longer have the capability to increase our production (and profits) and through lack of employee interest and enthusiasm (they haven't had to work hard during the shutdown since others were running the other machine), the second machine sits idle even though power is now available. Our options now are to either to live with the reduced earnings (since we have spent our short term profits from the machinery sale), or to invest in new machinery at a much higher price than what we received for our old machines and retrain the employees who can operate the idle equipment.

Obviously this is a fictitious scenario...or is it?

We at St. Paul's, through good fortune and the foresight of our vestry and very generous members (past and present) currently have an investment trust fund (aka – the diocesan investment trust or DIT). The investment of designated and restricted funds from St. Paul's is handled by a board of trustees at the diocese in collaboration with the fund managers. The trustees annually establish the rate of return that we will receive from our investments. The dollar amount is based on the average balance in our fund during the previous three year period. Therefore, the income we receive in 2008 is based on a percentage (5.5% in this case) of the three year average balance in 2005, 2006 and 2007. This amount has been sufficient to support in excess of two thirds of St. Paul's operating needs during the year. For 2009, the trustees have set the rate of return at 5.5% once again. However, the average balance against which income will be calculated will use the years of 2006, 2007 and 2008. The dismal economy during 2008 will almost certainly result in a lower average balance for 2009 (as well as 2010 and 2011, as it will stay in the calculation for three years). This almost certainly translates directly to a reduction in earnings from the DIT.

How we meet our needs for operating funds in the next several years will pose a serious challenge to the St. Paul's community. Do we "sell our machinery" as in the above scenario? Do we "buy new machinery while it is on sale" and "increase employee productivity" so we can increase the productivity of our ministries, or do we continue down the road to living at a reduced level of income and ministerial activity at St. Paul's?

I ask you all to pray for the answers to the above questions and then make your decision.

Next month's article will focus on our annual budget process.

Cordially submitted by Richard Schwab, committee chair

Altar Guild

2: Else Brunner
9: Barb Buffington
16: Carol Marker
23: Helen Viteritto
30: Esther Welden

Camera and Closing

Ron Chandler

Coffee Hour

2: Carol Marker
9: Else Brunner
16: Judy Ochse
23: Sandy Schwab
30: Helen Viteritto

**November 2008
Lay Ministry Schedule**

Counter

2: Jane Chandler and Warren Morgan
9: Richard Marker and Ed Stark
16: Dick Schwab and Jane Chandler
23: Karen Wolfson and Ed Ochse
30: Sandy Schwab and Warren Morgan

Eucharistic Minister

2: Margie Baker and Esther Weldon
9: Jane Chandler and Alma Shingler
16: Brenda Syle and Mary Jane Syle
23: Esther Weldon and Bob Arnold
30: Margie Baker and Jennie Bowen

Greeter

2: Alice Wood
9: Rachel Bartron
16: Jennie Bowen
23: Else Brunner
30: Margaret Burgh

Lector

2: Jerry Sock
9: Ed Stark
16: Brenda Syle
23: Mary Jane Syle
30: Scott Finlon

Usher

2: Bob Arnold
9: John Finlon
16: Al Leigh
23: Ed Ochse
30: Dick Schwab