

St. Paul's Episcopal Church



St. Paul's Church Statement of Mission and Ministry

St. Paul's Church, Wickford, is a loving community of Christians seeking to be faithful to God and renewed through the Gospel. We of St. Paul's aim to love God through:

- The sharing of the sacraments, worship and prayer,
- Ministering to people and spreading God's word,
- Seeking to become better stewards of God's gifts,
- Working toward the Kingdom of God within us and in the world.



The LORD is my strength and my defense;
he has become my salvation.
Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous:
The LORD's right hand is lifted high;
the LORD's right hand has done mighty things!
I will not die but live,
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.
The LORD has chastened me severely,
but he has not given me over to death.

Psalm 118: 14-18

From the Interim Rector Living into Christian Unity

(Formerly called Forgiveness and Reconciliation)

A Report of the teams: 13 March 2011

Following are the reports of the 2011 programs to promote unity, growth and vitality at St. Paul's. Teams are in place to help guide and support each area, and the overall effort is now being called "Living into Christian Unity". All members of the congregation are encouraged to communicate with the clergy or with members of any team to more fully define, support and/or participate in any of the programs.

1. Adventures in Awareness (held Sat Feb 12): this was an introduction to the distinction of personality types—or temperaments-- as distinguished by the Myers-Briggs personality survey. Our leaders were Frank Poole and Margaret Webb who donated their time to lead us in a full day of discussion and learning. More than thirty-five people attended, and explored self-awareness and self-acceptance as a component of accepting others and understanding why others do what they do. The Body of Christ is made up of all temperaments—and all are needed! Gifts for particular ministries are associated with different temperaments and our strength is in including them all..

2. Parish Youth Day (scheduled for May 15th): A day to gather with the youth and youth leadership of the parish to share the results of a review of their common experience: What has been their experience of the youth group? What happens now, and what are we aiming for the future? What are the strengths and success, the unrealized goals and aspirations of the youth program? This program is being facilitated by Patrick Greene with the participation of Lori and David Lamb, Sarah LeBlanc, Jayne McBride, Leslie Kershaw, Bonnie Brayton-Simmons, and Pete and Beth Bergwall.

3. Holding Differences in Unity is the name this team chose as they help us all learn how to accept conflict as a necessary part of deepening community. The team has met twice, and is moving forward in planning for (1) a teaching and education series (2) developing a process for conflict resolution and (3) upholding an environment in which we are "holding differences in unity". Education and training would be parish-wide to support all members to speak the truth, with a focused effort to engage the elected leadership and address our governance structure to assure that conflict is addressed in as open a way as possible, respecting the confidentiality of those involved. The goal is to assure that conflicts are not avoided, stuffed or ignored. Safe Church Officers will serve the parish to (1) assure adherence to safe church policy (2) provide productive intercession in times of conflict and (3) reach broadly—like the broad end of a funnel—to assure that everyone is heard and any conflict is brought to resolution. The newly appointed Safe Church Officer of the Vestry is Maureen Minarik, and she and Mike Cerullo will serve as safe church advocates, with a third person yet to be identified. Overall team members already identified are: Maureen Minarik, Pat Warburton, Wil Tolhurst, Ann Waring, Clare Parker, Camilla de Rochambeau, Diane Hoffman, Jane Brockway and Mike Cerullo.

4. The Healthy Church: This study and planning group has been meeting "on line" and is reading broadly about the characteristics of the "healthy church". Noteworthy among the books they have read is Healthy Congregations by Peter Steinke and Never Call them Jerks by Paul Boers. Members are reading different articles and books about the healthy church and sharing their perspectives with one another. Health in the church has to do with wholeness. For the church to realize it wholeness, leaders need to set a tone—inviting collaboration, We need to agree to stay away from shame, blaming and threats.

From the

Assistant Rector



Friends,

As many of you know, the Senior High Youth Group sent nineteen youth and six adults down to do work in New Orleans over February vacation. I admit that in the days leading up to this trip I was already tired of it because of all the details I had to make sure were taken care of. I am glad to say however, spending time with these young adults quickly reinvigorated me. I am truly impressed with the wonderful youth we have in our parish. After a series of delayed flights everyone was up and working the first day with maybe two or three hours of sleep. The work our youth accomplished still amazes me. Not only did they complete a job that we only expected to partially finish, there was very little grumbling or complaining throughout the week. On top of that, they were able to keep up their energy for work even though each night we were keeping them busy exploring and learning about New Orleans. You should all be very proud of our youth; they are such a great group.

March was pretty light in terms of youth group activity since I was away. I want to thank the Middle School Teachers for putting on a Bingo Night for the Middle School Youth; I greatly appreciate your dedication and interest in this ministry. I don't have much planned for April as the Mission Trip and my trip to Israel have taken up most of my time. We'll continue meeting on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 for evening prayer, dinner and some time to just relax and hang out. Looking ahead, I hope to put together a trip to play laser tag in the next couple of months. If there are any adults who would be interested in chaperoning and/or driving for this please be in touch. I also am starting to look into a summer camping trip- same thing goes for adult chaperones/drivers. If anyone has any ideas for trips or events please come to me with them and we can see if we can make them work.

We accept that there is imperfection in self and others, and that wholeness has to do with understanding and respecting our differences. The team currently includes the following parishioners: Susan Stiles, Nancy Shore, Thomasine Manickas, Marsha Welch, Peggy Todd and Mimi Dyer.

5. The YES program (see page 8 for schedule): A seven week series focused upon identifying how an individual's passionate purpose may be realized within the church. This program helps participants say YES to God, YES to self and YES to neighbor. This event is being led by Jan Grinnell, and is being coordinated by Marie Noble. Team members: Jim Wilson, Ann Waring, Leslie Kershaw, Martha Hitchcock, Jane Tiernan-Reilly.

6. Boundless Love is the title of the book that is the focus of two Lenten Study groups, with over 20 people involved. The book focuses on the story of the prodigal son, and invites us to more deeply understand our call to experience failure, forgiveness and reconciliation. Team members already identified are: Bess Wilson, Peggy Todd, Emily McKenney, Sarah LeBlanc, Thomasine Manickas and Bill Warburton.

7. Reconciliation Sunday (now scheduled for Pentecost Sunday June 12, 2011): We plan to gather to celebrate our unity as the people of God called together as St. Paul's Wickford. A planning team is encouraging a process to engage as many people in the parish as possible in making this personally and corporately meaningful. Team members already identified are: Susan Stiles, Clare Parker, Jeff Manickas, Martha Hitchcock and Diane Hoffman.

Almighty Father, whose blessed Son before his passion prayed for his disciples that they might be one, as you and he are one: Grant that your Church, being bound together in love and obedience to you, may be united in one body by the one Spirit, that the world may believe in him whom you have sent, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN

*Peace,
David*

Finally, the weekend after Easter, April 29th -May 1st, there is a diocesan retreat for high school youth called Happening. Happening is a youth led retreat, so former Happeners come back to run everything and they do an amazing job. This was one of the best experiences I had in high school (even my friends who did not end up becoming priests say the same thing) and I highly recommend it to all of our high school youth. If anyone has any questions about this or wants an application, please be in touch with me.

Upcoming Dates:

- 4/3- Variety Show
- 4/6, 4/13, 4/20, 4/27- Wednesday Evening Prayer & Dinner 5:30-7:00
- 4/17- Palm Sunday
- 4/21- Maundy Thursday
- 4/22- Good Friday
- 4/23- Easter Vigil
- 4/24- Easter Sunday
- 4/29- Happening 67

Yours in Christ,
Patrick+



With Grateful Hearts

Ask and you shall receive. At the 2011 Annual Meeting the Vestry conveyed to the congregation the deficit status of this year's budget and the necessary cuts to program at the end of the first quarter if additional funds were not forthcoming. The Parish responded in splendid fashion. Thanks to the generous pledging and gifts by the parishioners, the Vestry was able to vote the restoration of all proposed cuts and amend the budget accordingly. If all pledging parishioners fulfill their obligations, we will be able to maintain a balanced budget throughout the year. Thanks to all for your prayerful financial support to St. Paul's-we are abundantly blessed.



from the Dir. of Music and Liturgy:

Congratulations to St. Paul's Youth Choir for the beautiful service of Choral Evensong which they sang at the charming St. Peter's Church by the Sea in Narragansett March 13. They joined forces with 50 other choristers from Episcopal churches from around the Diocese who are affiliated with The Royal School of Church Music, an international organization. Watch the calendar for more news about the RSCM camp to be held again in Newport this summer. All choristers are welcome to participate!

The Children's and Youth Choirs and Church School will be presenting a musical **"100% Chance of Rain," May 22 at 11:00AM, directed by Rozanne Fuller and Maria Day-Hyde.** There are speaking parts as well. They also need adult boat builders, stage crew, scenery and costume makers and extra actors. It sounds like a great event for the entire Parish! Please contact Rozanne Fuller at 924-9683 to volunteer your talents!

Please join us for special Holy Week services. The Parish Choir will offer music by Palestrina and the Catalan-born 20th c. composer Pablo Casals at both choral Eucharists on Palm Sunday 9:00 and 11:00. For Easter Day 9:00 and 11:00 liturgies the Parish Choir will be joined by Easter Brass for the 9:00 and 11:00 liturgies. The choir will render selections from Handel's celebrated "Messiah," and the joyous and lyrical Missa Brevis by Hungarian composer Zoltan Kodaly (1882-1967). The Youth and Children's Choirs will lead the service in the Old Narragansett Church also at 9:00AM. Please join us for these other special choral services of Holy Week:

Maundy Thursday, 7:00pm Music of Morten Lauridsen and Bruckner

Good Friday, 7:00pm The Passion according to St. John (plainchant), Palestrina and Casals

The Holy Saturday Easter Vigil, 7:00pm Music of Palestrina, Kodaly, and Handel

Peace,
Mark



"Be the change you wish to see in the world." Gandhi

Are you ready to take the challenge?

When the Sunday School children were asked what the meaning of Lent was, the same theme kept coming up in the discussion. That's when you have to give something up, like chocolate or video games. Well, some people feel the need to do this, but not truly the meaning of Lent. To simplify for the kids, we spoke about preparing ourselves for the coming of Easter and the Resurrection; this could be done by sacrificing or changing a behavior that keeps us from being a true Christian.

We challenged the students to take part in a project called *A Complaint Free World*. Each child was given a purple bracelet to wear on their wrist. Each time that person complains, gossips, whines or says something negative to someone, they are to move their bracelet to the other wrist. This is done until they are able to keep it on the same wrist for 21 consecutive days. The idea was developed by Will Bowen, founder of *AComplaintFreeWorld.org*. It is stated that our words our powerful indicators of our thoughts and our thoughts create our lives. When we complain, we put out negative energy and as a result, we draw to us negative experiences. He also believes that by creating positive thoughts, our lives will become happier, more loving and positive. Jesus wants us to love our neighbor as ourselves- what better way to start on that path than by learning to pause before we say something hurtful, and treat people the way that we would like to be treated. We can change a negative behavior through prayer and guidance, one that may be keeping us away from Christ. Believe me; you don't even realize how often you complain until you begin this project. The children took the challenge. Will you?

Speaking of challenges, the Sunday school is in need of numerous teachers for next year. We have had a large number of "retirements" this year and need new volunteers. Many of these teachers have been teaching for years and have decided to step down to move on to other activities within the church and their lives. We thank them for their time and service, but it does leave the Sunday school with quite a few holes to fill. If you

are interested in learning more and would like to help out the children of St. Paul's, please contact me at 294-9908. We would like to continue to offer a wide range of classes for our children, but we cannot do so without teachers. We need volunteers to fill out positions of all age groups, from pre-school through Confirmation. No experience is necessary, we supply curriculum and try to pair new teachers up with more experienced ones. Please help the children.

Come join us on Sunday mornings; friends are always welcome. It is never too late to sign up or just stop in for a visit.

Important Sunday School Dates

There will be regular Sunday school classes on April 3, 10.

Community worship dates are April 17, 24 due to school vacation week.

Youth Sunday has been moved to May 15 due to scheduling difficulties. There will be a rehearsal in the church Saturday May 14th, at 9am, for all participants. Confirmation will take place on May 14, 2 pm at St. Luke's in E. Greenwich.

Please Note:

There will be an important Sunday school parent meeting on Sunday, April 10th at 11 am in the Parish Hall. This is open to all parents, families, and parishioners interested in the future of the Sunday school.

Lori

Easter Flowers

The deadline for Easter flowers for the sanctuary is Friday, April 8. Please contact the Church office to place Easter flower orders (294-4357).

St. Paul's Nursery School

It has been said that, "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb". During the month of March



News

we continued our weather unit and learned more about different types of weather. We made predictions, observations and recorded the weather each day to see if March really did come in like a lion and went out like a lamb.

In March we also presented a unit on Healthy Bodies. We learned about how to take care of our bodies, nutrition and dental health. We had a visit from one of our children's grandfathers who is a dentist, Dr. Photopoulos. He talked to us about keeping our teeth clean and showed us how to brush our teeth. He told us about foods that help keep our teeth healthy. We performed an "eggs"-periment to observe what happens to teeth that are not cared for.

Pajama Day was on Tuesday, March 8 to introduce the letter Pp. We all wore our pajamas and brought our favorite blankets or stuffed animals that we sleep with to school. We learned how sleep keeps us healthy. We watched a movie, listened to stories and had a popcorn snack with our animals. It was funny to see the teachers dressed in PJ's too.

We celebrated St. Patrick's Day on Thursday March 17. We wore green and brought something green in to eat for snack. Also on March 23, we had a "Wacky Wednesday". This is a fun day when the children use their observation skills to find things that are "wacky" and not what they should be. We dressed in a wacky way and had a wacky snack.

March also is the perfect time to begin our planting and spring unit. Both the 3's and 4's started plants in their classrooms that they will bring home in a few weeks. We took several walks around the neighborhood to look for signs of spring; insects, birds and flowers. We were happy that we were finally able to go outside on a more consistent basis.

We ended the month with parent – teacher conferences.

Registration is under way for 2011. We still have space in our four year old P.M. class and in our three day three's and our two day three's classes. Give us a call to get more information and to set up a tour of our school.

God Bless. *Linda*



Ministry Team Highlights

Community Dinners

On March 6th we hosted the Community Luncheon in our church hall. The event was made extra special for our guests because of the kind and generous efforts of Mary Ellen Madsen. Mary Ellen donated beautiful flowers for each dining table. In keeping with the Mardi Gras theme, she also adorned the tables with colorful beads and absolutely fabulous masks. All of the flowers, beads and masks were given to our guests as they left the luncheon. This unexpected surprise brought joy to everyone who attended the luncheon. Thank you Mary Ellen.

Winter Christian Action Notes

Our January meeting was cancelled due to snow.

At the February meeting, we decided to contribute \$500 to the Good Neighbor Energy Fund renewed our membership in the Southern Poverty Law Center (\$250). In addition, \$250 will support Welcome House, a Peace Dale shelter and soup kitchen.

The Southern Poverty Law Center is a nonprofit civil rights organization dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry, and to seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of society.

In December, parishioners rang the bell for the Salvation Army in front of Dave's, Wickford. They collected \$736 which will go to our local organization. Thanks to Peggy Sagnella, Emily McKenney, Thomasine Manickas, Chris Waters, Jack Fronce, Ninni Jacob, Dick and Ruth Ann Lewis and Mimi and Dan Dyer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Godley

2011 Episcopal Charities

To launch the annual Episcopal Charities campaign at St. Paul's, we were very pleased to have Karen Santilli and Jade Alves from Crossroads RI as our guest speakers on March 19-20. In addition to the services provided through Kingstown Crossroads, the Harold Lewis House located in West Warwick provides a safe and respectful place to live for previously chronically homeless men and women. It was Crossroad's promise to Harold Lewis that no one should ever have to die while homeless. Crossroads is but one of the 96 organizations receiving a 2010 grant from Episcopal Charities.

The diocesan goal for 2011 is \$450,000; St. Paul's share is \$40,000. With God's grace, and by giving from the abundance of what we all have together, these goals can be achieved and more. We ask that everyone participate to the extent they are able. If you have given to Charities before, we appreciate your past support and encourage you to renew your gift. Please consider a generous pledge of support. – a first time gift of \$50 or an increase of \$50 would mean so much. You may place your pledge card in the offering, bring it to the office, or mail it to the office.

Whether large or small, **every gift matters and every gift helps.** Few gifts work harder, as 100% (and a bit more) of your entire donation goes directly to help those who need it most! Your gift can make a difference in the lives of the poor, desperate, underprivileged, and needy. Your support enables scores of social services organizations to feed the hearts of the disheartened, giving them hope to live a more productive and secure future.

Episcopal Charities is an opportunity to invest yourself, through the resources available to you.. Mark 6:41-50 recounts how Jesus took five loaves and two fish and fed 5,000 people, showing us that simple acts of kindness, offered to and blessed by God, can multiply.

May the gifts that flow from our caring hearts also be so fruitful and pleasing to God.

Faithfully,
Thomasine and Jeff Manickas
Episcopal Co-Chairpersons

Self-Study Report

The Self-Study Committee continues to work on completion of the Parish Profile-the recruiting document for our next Rector. Most of the text has been written and website design is progressing. In March the Vestry and all services participated in defining the characteristics wanted in the next Rector--the "dot" activity. These results will be incorporated into the final section of the Profile that addresses that area and the vision for the future of St. Paul's. Hopefully, the document will be available for Parish review in early May.



Search Committee Process

After the Parish Profile is completed and disseminated, the work of the Search Committee begins. Their tasks include reviewing applications, scheduling and holding interviews with prospective candidates and finally recommending the chosen candidate for Vestry approval. At the March Vestry meeting members began the process to appoint the Search Committee, consisting of nine members, chaired by the Junior Warden, Katherine Bellows. The remaining eight members will be selected to represent a broad spectrum of life at St. Paul's-one from each of the three services, a choir member, a parent/teacher of children/youth, a Self-Study member, and a Vestry member. Search Committee members need to be faithful in worship, committed to the Mission Statement of the Parish, able to work collaboratively with the team, and be able to dedicate a significant amount of time to the work. Parishioners may suggest names for the Search Committee by calling the Church Office (294-4357) no later than April 10. Vestry will review proposed names and decide who to call to determine their willingness to serve. Officers will present the resulting slate to Vestry for approval at the May meeting.

Imagine a Life In Which You Can Say:

YES! to Your God

YES! to Your Neighbor

YES! to Your Self

Yes! was developed to help you create that life.

Rather than egotistically creating your own life, **Yes!** uses appreciative inquiry and conversation to help you awaken to the life-giving purpose that is already within you.

Yes! is based on several assumptions:

- We are made for a purpose.
- We have been fully equipped with gifts and talents to fulfill that purpose.
- We most closely manifest our purpose when we are at our best, being and doing those things that flow from the core of our being and bring deep satisfaction.
- Life and the abundant life that Jesus' promised comes from what we deeply and profoundly say yes to, for it is in what we say **Yes!** to that we manifest our God given purpose.

"The place God calls you is the place where your deep gladness and the world's hunger meet."

Frederick Buechner

Yes! has two basic purposes:

- To help people discern and manifest in the world their core purpose for being.
- To grow an appreciative culture within church communities.

"To create a better world we don't need better people,
we just need to help people to discover and be their best."

Rob Voyle

St. Paul's Church will be offering the **Yes!** curriculum, facilitated by Deacon Jan Grinnell, beginning Wednesday, April 27. The dates and times are as follow:

Session 1, April 27	Wednesday evening 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Session 2, May 4	Wednesday evening 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Day of Discovery, May 7	Saturday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
Session 3, - May 11	Wednesday evening 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Session 4, May 18	Wednesday evening 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Session 5, May 25	Wednesday evening 7:00 – 9:00 pm (change from original schedule)

Please contact the church office to register, or fill out the form below and put it in the collection plate. There will be charge of \$28 per person for the materials that needs to be paid when you register so that materials can be obtained in time. If you have any questions concerning the course or would like to be part of the course but having a problem making the meetings, please speak with David Dobbins or Jan Grinnell.

Yes! Registration Form

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

e-Mail: _____



April 17, Palm Sunday, The Passion of our Lord:

- 5:15 pm (Sat.) – Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist
- 7:30 am – The Blessing of Palms, Passion Narrative and Eucharist, Rite 1
- 9:00 am – The Blessing of Palms, Passion Narrative and Eucharist, Rite 2
- 11:00 am – The Blessing of Palms, Passion Narrative and Eucharist, Rite 2

April 21, Maundy Thursday:

- 7:00 pm – Ceremony of Foot Washing and the Lord's Supper

April 22, Good Friday:

- 10:00 am – Stations of the Cross for Children (Outdoors at ONC)
- Noon – Ecumenical Good Friday Service
- 7:00 pm – Liturgy for Good Friday with Sung Passion (Church)

April 23, Saturday:

- 7:00 pm – The Great Vigil of Easter

April 24, Easter Day:

- 6:00 am – Sunrise Eucharist (ONC)
- 7:30 am – Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 (Church)
- 9:00 am – Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 (Church & ONC)
- 11:00 am – Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 (Church)



GROWING IN INTIMACY WITH GOD THROUGH SCRIPTURE



From time to time *The Communicant* will include a short timely scripture to read and reflect and respond in writing if so desired.

John 20:11-18

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

For Your Reflection:

Christ, the Risen One, knows **your name** too. Be very still and use every one of your senses. Listen for your name lovingly spoken. Listen. Sense. Think and feel what it means for you to hear Christ, the Risen One, say **your name!**

