

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 symbolism of the Advent wreath



The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as the birth of Jesus approaches. The circular form of the wreath symbolizes eternity or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World who brought light and life to a dark world (see John 1:4-5). We light a new candle on each of the four Sundays of Advent. As the light grows, so does our anticipation and joy.

For many denominations, each of the four weekly candles is purple, the traditional color of royalty. For the third Sunday, some denominations use a pink candle to symbolize joy. The other three candles are purple and represent hope, peace and love, respectively. In the center of the wreath is a large white candle — the Christ candle — which we light on Christmas Eve. White represents the purity of Jesus.

At home, many families observe regular devotional times around the wreath. The practice builds family memories and develops Christmas customs that are likely to pass from generation to generation.

Message from the Assistant Rector

Friends,

I'd like to start off by thanking all the volunteers who helped pull Halloween Happenings together, Lori & David Lamb, Susie Leahy & Michael White, Bonnie Brayton-Simmons and Jerome Simmons and Peter Bergwall. I'd also like to thank all the youth who took part in making this event happen. I had a lot of fun doing it and think it went very well.

Mission trip information was announced in November. If you didn't hear, we're headed down to New Orleans in February to do work through Trinity Church in downtown New Orleans. Hopefully by the time that this reaches you we will have a set list of missionaries and will be ready to start up with our fundraising. If you have any questions about this trip, please contact me.

December is looking to be very busy indeed. We will continue to have the weekly Evening Prayer and dinners on Wednesday nights from 5:30 to 7:00. There will be a High School Youth meeting on December 5th from 5pm to 6pm, and there will be a Middle School Youth meeting on December 12th from 5pm to 6pm, both in the Parish Hall (meeting soon after Sunday services does not work so well for me, so we will try out this time and see how it goes). The Middle School Youth will be putting on the Live Nativity on Friday, December 3rd and all youth members are invited and encouraged to participate with the distribution of Christmas Baskets on Wednesday, December 22nd. Please contact me with any questions about these events you may have.

I would also like to encourage any adults who are interested in supporting our youth to be in touch with me. We can always use more adult presence; now that we're offering dinner for the youth nearly every Wednesday, donations of meals or parts of meals are greatly appreciated. So if you have a desire to help out with our youth ministry, please don't hesitate to be in touch.

Dates to remember in December:
Wednesday Night's- Evening Prayer & Dinner
5:30-7:00pm

12/3- Live Nativity 6-7:30pm

12/5- High School Youth Meeting 5-6pm (in the Chapter Room, not the Parish Hall)

12/12- Middle School Youth Meeting 5-6pm

12/21-22- Christmas Basket Assembly & Delivery

12/25- Christmas!

Yours in Christ,
Patrick



Christian Action Notes November 2010

The Christian Action Committee gathered Wednesday, November 10 to direct year end donations. Members in attendance included Peggy Sagnella, Emily McKenney, Thomasine Manickas, Chris Waters, Kathleen Godley and our Vestry liaison, Dick Lewis.

Consistent with our tradition of supporting innovative education for the underprivileged, we will give \$250 each to Sophia Academy and Community Prep schools. St. Mary's home for troubled girls and Amos House will also receive \$250 each.

Crossroads RI, formerly Travelers' Aid has observed a 68% increase in homelessness this year and sent an emergency appeal letter. We chose to support their efforts in North Kingstown and Providence with \$325.

If you would like to participate in more Christian Action, we will be ringing the bells for the Salvation Army Saturday, December 4 from 10am-4pm in front of Dave's, Wickford. To reserve your time slot, contact Kathleen Godley, 294-1206 or kcg88@verizon.net.

Respectfully submitted, Kathleen Godley



**from the Dir. of Music
and Liturgy:**

“The tree of life my soul hath seen,

Laden with fruit and always green:

The trees of nature fruitless be

Compared with Christ the apple tree.”

Joshua Smith 1784

Advent is upon us! Please join us for St. Paul’s Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols on December 12 at 4:00pm. St. Paul’s Parish Choir, Youth Choir and Children’s Choir will sing music by G.F. Handel, Elizabeth Poston, Hugo Distler, and Louis Vierne with guest instrumentalists. The service will be followed by a reception in the parish hall prepared by St. Paul’s revered hospitality committee.

Many thanks to our extraordinary choir members who continually to offer their time and talents to the glory of God! Also thank you to the supportive choir family members and friends who have faithfully shared in this commitment to the worship life at St. Paul’s.

Please join us for Christmas Eve services with special music!

Christmas Eve Schedule: Dec. 24

3:00pm Children's Pageant and Eucharist

5:00pm Carols and Eucharist with St. Paul's Youth Choir

7:15pm Choral prelude and Carols

7:30pm Choral Eucharist: St. Paul's Parish Choir sings Mozart's "Spatzenmesse" and music by Berlioz

10:00pm Choral prelude and Carols

10:30pm Choral Eucharist: St. Paul's Parish Choir sings Mozart's "Spatzenmesse" and music by Berlioz.

St. Paul’s annual Epiphany Evensong will take place January 9 at 7pm in the Old Narragansett Church with a reception following in the Parish Hall. The Parish Choir will sing music of Herbert Howells and Thomas Morley and be joined by the three Magi! Dress warmly and invite a friend to this magical service!

Finally, I must offer my heartfelt thanks for the amazing celebration St. Paul’s threw for my 20th anniversary year of service here. The clock is lovely, and I can’t wait to see and hear the new rank of 16’ reed pipes on the Stuart organ! It has truly been a joy to serve with so many wonderful staff members, choir members, and the entire parish family. **YOU ARE ST. PAUL’S CHURCH!** St. Paul’s is such an amazing place because of YOU the people who ARE St. Paul’s Church! St. Paul’s is overflowing with loving, creative, talented, and generous people who are not afraid to be challenged or to grow. St. Paul’s believes in the power of worship to change them. St. Paul’s continues to be a great place to grow as we share our unique spiritual journeys together. Thank you so much for your prayers and support of the music ministry at St. Paul’s.

Wishing you God’s peace and happiness this Christmas season!

Mark



*“They shall name him Emmanuel”, which means,
“God is with us” .*

Matthew 1:18-25

Sunday School News



It's that time of year again, time for the Christmas pageant. After surveying the families of the Sunday school, it became obvious that families love the tradition of the pageant on Christmas Eve. When we look past the pushing and shoving in the sheep section and the occasional fumbled lines, there is just something about the holy chaos that really brings home the true meaning of Christmas. So it is with delight, that we will again be sharing the Christmas pageant during the three pm service.

Pageant registration forms went home in November with the children, and are due back on December 5. If your child has not already received a sign up form, please feel free to contact me at home 294-9908 or during Sunday school hours to sign-up. We will take registrations up through the last rehearsal. Keep in mind though, speaking parts are given to the oldest children first and need to be decided before Dec. 12. Please note the rehearsal times have changed from past years due to the celebration of ordination of Patrick Greene.

I want to thank everyone for the wonderful response we have had to our "Pennies for Peace" community service project. Pennies have been coming in from all areas of the parish. It is so wonderful to see how caring this parish is across the board. Pennies are still being collected until Christmas. Information and collection jars are available in the parish hall, nursery school, and parish office. Thank you for helping us to raise funds for education in Central Asia. Stay tuned in January when we determine just how many pennies we collected. In December, the Sunday school is helping our local North Kingstown area. We will be making Christmas cards to go along with the parish Christmas baskets as well as collecting assorted food items to be included in the baskets. North Kingstown Food Pantry Director, Bonnie Smith will be speaking with the children about the special needs of their neighbors, right here in N.K.

In Sunday school this year, we have been talking about the importance of loving our neighbors, families, and everyone in our lives (even those that may be difficult to love). The focus has been on how they, as children, can help others around them just as Jesus taught us. As teachers, we find it is important to help our students understand how the lessons they learn in class pertain to their lives today. In one particular lesson, we spoke how building our lives on the teachings in the Bible (building upon the rock) can help us during the tough times in our lives. Despite how we want to shelter our children, they are very aware and in some cases have experienced some very tough times in their lives already. Through our various projects, we are showing them that they have the power to change the world. It could be by bringing the true meaning of Christmas to the lives of the parish through the pageant on Christmas Eve, or helping feed the hungry of North Kingstown, or maybe by bringing peace to the world through education. For some of these children who feel that they are powerless to change some events in their own lives, it's a powerful lesson to show them that they can change the world.

Please join us on Sunday mornings and remember friends are always welcome.

Lorí

Important Sunday School Dates

Dec. 5, 12, 19 Regular Sunday school
Dec. 24 Children's Christmas Eve Service with Pageant 3 pm
Dec. 26, Jan. 2 No Sunday school (school vacation), Community Worship

Pageant Rehearsal Times

Speaking parts will rehearse Dec. 12, 19 during regular Sunday school hours.

Full rehearsal for everyone is on Dec. 19th, 11am-12:30pm*, in the sanctuary. "Sheep" may attend full rehearsal with a family member, but they will not be needed until 12pm.

*please note that this is a change from past years and from noted on Sunday school calendar

St. Paul's Community Garden - 2010 Season

Thanks to the generosity of Norma and David Freeborn for the use of their land and the effort of all our "sharecroppers", the garden produced a bumper crop of almost everything we planted. With 24 plot-holders and 7 "row croppers", we grew over 5200 lbs of organic veggies- plus 60 dozen ears of corn- in addition to the individual plots- and tithed over 20% (over 1100 lbs) to the NK Food pantry and a number of Senior Citizen facilities. Not only was the Garden a huge success as a first time venture, it also was an example of what a "community" of loving and caring Christians looks like in practice. Our folks rallied around to prepare meals for the Freeborns, after Norma broke her shoulder, delivered vegetables to- and prayed for- Bess Wilson and Rob Mortin during their time of chemo treatments, and there was certainly an air of fellowship during our work times. We are already looking ahead to next year and beginning to do some preliminary planning.

If anyone is interested in joining us next year, please send an email to tedseymour@verizon.net or Rini at kennrini@gmail.com.

To view photos of the community garden please visit the church's website and go to December 2010 Communicant.

<http://www.stpaulswickford.org/index.shtml>



Christmas gift suggestions:

To your enemy, forgiveness.
To an opponent, tolerance.
To a friend, your heart.
To a customer, service.
To all charity.
To every child, a good example.
To yourself, respect.
Oren Arnold - novelist, journalist, and humorist
1900 - 1980

Self-Study Update

The Self-Study Committee continues to gather information necessary to write the Parish Profile. During November a Survey/Core Values assessment was made available in the Communicant, Website and Narthex to allow people to share memories, comments and concerns. Five open meetings were held to allow conversation about the survey and other relevant issues. If you have filled out a survey and/or attended a meeting, the Committee thanks you. If you have not done so, please fill out a survey and return to the Church office as soon as possible.

The final Profile will only be as good as the information gathered and everyone's input is needed. The Committee is also working with information gathered at the Vestry Retreat to assimilate it into the history portion of the profile document. The Committee will continue to meet bi-weekly to collect survey/meeting results, create a format for the final document and choose the media for dispersing it to potential candidates.

If you have any questions about the Self-Study process, please contact a member of the Committee.



Healing for the Holidays

As the holiday season approaches feelings of past losses creep into our hearts. Starting Saturday, November 27 and the next 3 Saturdays, healing ministry will be offered during the 5:15 services. This will be only during the season of Advent. Presently, this ministry is offered during the Sunday's 9:30 services. It is God's intention and wish for all of us to heal when needed.

If you would like to be a member of the Healing Ministry please contact James Jacob, Jacob@organomed.com

GOD WILLING
THE RT. REV. GERALYN WOLF
BISHOP OF RHODE ISLAND
WILL ORDAIN

Patrick James Greene

TO THE SACRED ORDER OF PRIESTS



YOUR PRAYERS AND PRESENCE ARE REQUESTED
AT THE SERVICE AND RECEPTION
SATURDAY, THE EIGHTEENTH DAY OF DECEMBER
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD, TWO THOUSAND AND TEN
AT TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 55 MAIN STREET
NORTH KINGSTOWN, RHODE ISLAND

CLERGY ARE REQUESTED TO WEAR RED STOLES
RSVP TO THE PARISH OFFICE AT 401-294-4357
OFFICE@STPAULSWICKFORD.ORG



Reaching out to the community
in which we live....

CHRISTMAS BASKETS - 2010

As we enter the holiday seasons this year, with our blessings for the joys, sorrows and the gift of life we have shared this past year, let us all take a few moments out of our moment in life to care for those in our community who need a special touch. St. Paul's CHRISTMAS BASKETS touch a lot of those people. Again this year, 100 families will receive a basket full of food for their CHRISTMAS dinner and enough extra for several other meals (breakfast, lunches and dinners). These special families also represent approximately 300 people in our community. Just think... over 300 people in our town receiving a bit of love from everyone who shares in the CHRISTMAS BASKETS from our community of St. Paul's.

Listed here are several specific ways you and your families can share in St. Paul's CHRISTMAS BASKETS for 2010:

Your cost of one complete food basket is \$45. You may wish to give money for a full basket or part of one or you may choose to donate a **frozen** turkey or roaster. **Starting with the THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE and continuing to December 18, you may bring your donations from the food staple list to church.** There will be a designated area for all CHRISTMAS BASKET food donations. The financial donation is used for purchasing all the perishable and produce items.

Families will be needed to pray for our special families, and VOLUNTEERS will be needed to help assemble the baskets. Those of you who have volunteered in the past know what joy is shared - those of you who are new to the parish or have never participated before.... well, you don't know what you've been missing!

If you and your family can give in any of the ways offered, please check the appropriate place on the VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION slip and return it to the Parish Office or place it in the collection plate as soon as possible.

FOOD STAPLES NEEDED FOR EACH BASKET

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 40-oz. Jiffy Baking Mix | Instant Oatmeal |
| 16-oz. Mayonnaise | Cookies |
| Cranberry Sauce | Jiffy Pie Crust Mix |
| Christmas Candy | 1-lb. cans Shortening |
| Kellogg's Corn Flakes | 48-oz. Bottle Canola Oil |
| Juicy Juice | Pancake Syrup |
| Stuffing Mix | Peanut Butter |
| 5-lb. Sugar | Canned Yams |
| Popping Corn | Pumpkin Pie Filling |
| Grape Jelly | 5-lb. All Purpose Flour |

In addition to the staples, the Christmas Baskets will include the following perishables and produce:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Bologna | Eggs |
| Margarine | Milk |
| Bacon | Orange Juice |
| Hot-dogs | Bread |
| American Cheese | Turkey or Roaster |
| Carrots | Oranges |
| Bananas | Apples |
| Lettuce | Potatoes |
| Onions | Squash |
| Turnip | Celery |

I have agreed to share God's love in the following ways:

- FOOD STAPLES
- PRAY FOR A FAMILY
- FINANCIAL AID (Please indicate "for Christmas Baskets" on your check or envelope and include your envelope number)
- **FROZEN TURKEY or ROASTER**
(To be delivered to the Parish House on Wednesday, December 22 by 9 a.m.)



VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION

Pack Baskets, Tuesday, 12/21 at 7 p.m. _____

Pack Baskets, Wednesday, 12/22 at 9 a.m. _____

Pray for a family _____

Help Deliver Baskets, Wednesday, 12/22 at 11:30 a.m. _____

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

I wish to contribute one (or more) basket(s) \$_____.

I wish to contribute \$_____ toward a basket.

Bring **FROZEN** Turkey or Roaster Wednesday, December 22 by 9 a.m.

(Please indicate Turkey _____ Roaster _____)

Name _____ Phone _____

Envelope # _____



Nursery School
News

St. Paul's
"Weekday"
Nursery School
News:

During the month of November our three

and four year olds focused on Families, Pilgrims, Native Americans and Thanksgiving. We made Native American necklaces and headdresses. We painted our faces and sampled succotash, corn bread, home- made butter, cranberry sauce and popcorn. We learned to read some Native American symbols and made paper teepees and Indian corn. At Chapel Chat, as we do every week, we talked about what we are thankful for. This month we also hypothesized what the pilgrims might have been thankful for on that first Thanksgiving Day. We ended the month with a short program upstairs with Miss Maria and families were invited to attend.

We are continuing to take names for next year's enrollment. We have begun giving tours of the school. We have spaces available for the 3's and 4's for next September. Enrollment is now open to the community. Please call the school at 295-7320 for more information or the visit the school.

God Bless,
Linda



Safe Church Training

The Diocese will offer a Safe Church Training at St. Paul's on **Saturday, December 11, 2010 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.** Cost is \$10. To register contact Gloria Williams at gloria@episcopalri.org or 274-4500. This is required for all parishoners working with children or elderly and recommended for all.

Pledge Message

Dear St. Paul's Community,

The pledge team and vestry are nearing the completion of the "every member canvas." We felt this was an important time to reach out to all members of St. Paul's and discuss the changes taking place in our community, how important it is for each of us to renew our commitment, and how we might step into the future together. The conversations have been truly inspiring. Our identity as members of the body of Christ is strong. If we haven't reached you and you would like to talk to a member of the pledge team, please send me an email at tljhc93@cox.net and I will be in touch.

If you have not yet made a pledge, it is not too late. As discussed in the pledge letter that was mailed several weeks ago, we have much to do in the coming months and we will require everyone's support to do it. Based on reports from the Finance Committee and Vestry, a 10% increase in the operating budget is necessary to meet our staffing needs, outreach and mission.

St. Paul's is a vibrant community, committed to carrying out God's work. It is vitally important, especially at this transitional time that we move into the future united behind our common purpose – to bring Christ's love into the world. We are all members of St. Paul's because of His message of love, and we can continue to move forward together, despite our differences, because of His love. If you have made your pledge, the Parish is grateful for your faithful support. If you have not done so, please prayerfully consider your pledge for the upcoming year - it is through your commitment and generosity that St. Paul's is able to be a light of Christ in the world. I wish you blessings and peace during this Advent season.

Yours in Christ,
Tabitha Jorgensen
Annual Pledge Team Chair



ADVENTURE IN AWARENESS

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2011

Do you ever leave a worship service or a meeting really excited and then discover that others are not reacting the same way?

Do you sometimes find a co-worker constantly “rubs you the wrong way”?

Have you ever wondered why you and a fellow church volunteer look at the same situation from entirely different perspectives?

God created each of us as a unique individual with preferences in the ways we gain energy, process information, relate to one another, make decisions and engage with life. Sometimes these preferences connect us to others in fairly effortless ways; at other times, they may lead us to collide with one another and create confusion and conflict.

We are bringing “ADVENTURES IN AWARENESS”, a workshop based on the Myers Briggs Type Indicator, to St. Paul’s in the form of a single day retreat Saturday February 12, 2011. Leaders Margaret Webb and Frank Poole.

This one-day “adventure” will provide a basis for understanding and valuing our individual preferences, including how personality type and temperament influence our relationships at home, at work, at school and in church life. Our preferences influence how we relate to one another, to ourselves and to God.

Cost \$30 per person or \$50 per couple to cover the test and materials. (Test needs to be completed and returned by February 1st before workshop)

All who are interested please contact Jeff Manickas or Tina Butler

Jeff 884-0792

Manickasja@cox.net

Tina 294-2711

Tina_Butler@cox.net



He will be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6

A Christmas blessing

May you have the Spirit of Christmas, which is Peace,

The Gladness of Christmas, which is Hope,

The Heart of Christmas, which is Love,

The Gift of Christmas, which is Christ.

—Ada Hendricks