

# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable to you,  
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Psalm 19:14



## 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.



## A MORNING RESOLVE

I will try this day to live a simple, sincere and serene life, repelling promptly every thought of discontent, anxiety, discouragement, impurity, and self-seeking; cultivating cheerfulness, magnanimity, charity, and the habit of holy silence; exercising economy in expenditure, generosity in giving, carefulness in conversation, diligence in appointed service, fidelity to every trust, and a childlike faith in God

In particular I will try to be faithful in those habits of prayer, work, study, physical exercise, eating, and sleep which I believe the Holy Spirit has shown me to be right.

And as I cannot in my own strength do this, nor even with a hope of success attempt it, I look to thee, O Lord God my Father, in Jesus my Savior, and ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit.



## From the Interim Rector

Dear Friends,

Jan, Patrick and I have been with you now for about five months, and we have been coming to know your corporate life and history even as we are gradually learning your individual names and personal experiences. I was quickly introduced to a good number of you when I first arrived here—some twenty made appointments to see me so that I might personally know of their commitment to the welfare of St. Paul's even as they had endured experiences that had offended and frustrated them.

The life of St. Paul's reflects the nature of what it means to be human, and it also reflects to the world what it means to be the beloved of God. We live together in such a way that we know what it is to be injured and then blessed, reckless and then forgiven. This is not a pattern that is unique to St. Paul's: we are human beings more or less under the influence and guidance of the Holy Spirit and we need strong bonds of love and forgiveness to support each and every one of us as we seek to serve Christ in his Church.

Over these past months we have been called to set in place policies and procedures that will help to provide for action that is consistent with spiritual growth and the emotional safety of all in our worshipping community. In the coming months the Vestry will be called apart for a facilitated "Mutual Ministry Review" whereby we will be supported in looking at our ability to work collaboratively in the service of Christ's church at St. Paul's. It is my hope that this will be a process into which your next rector will be invited on a regular basis to help assure that openness and trust is established and deepened for the benefit of the Clergy, Vestry and the entire parish.

I am grateful to your elected leaders for the support they have given to me, Jan and Patrick during this time of reflection and development. With their courage and patience we have sought to learn the lessons of our recent history, and to plan for a future that is marked by increasing openness

and deepening trust. You are fortunate in having dedicated, faithful and responsible individuals offering their service on the Vestry, who are committed to being deserving of the trust you have placed in them. Together we will be deepening our understanding of the responsibilities associated with being your elected leaders, and preparing for the appointment of a Search Committee that will seek out and nominate your next Rector.

We are all fortunate to have a dedicated and highly capable team of staff people serving St. Paul's—each serve in ways that evidence that the exercise of their responsibilities is an expression of their passion and faith in Christ. This year, with the support of the Wardens, I will be endeavoring to engage each staff person in "mutual ministry review" to discover the ways in which we can more ably support one another in fulfilling our commitments and aspirations.

And, finally, we are deeply fortunate to have been granted one another in Christ's body the church. Each of us has a responsibility for enriching the lives of our fellow members in ways that are natural to us and consistent with expressing God's love for each of us. As we seek to be a people united in Christ I invite you to accept a particular challenge in the service of our common life: commit yourself to introducing yourself to a member of St. Paul's whose name you don't already know, and then discover something of the circumstances that have brought you to be together at St. Paul's. These simple steps, graced by the Holy Spirit, may allow you to discover bonds of affection given in Christ that have yet to be revealed. These simple steps of reaching out to the stranger who is your neighbor will act like vital yeast among us, bringing vitality to the dough and making us into the bread of life. Christ is that bread of life: may his loving presence be known among us so that we may be the bread of life to a hungry world.

Peace,

W. David Dobbins      Interim Rector

*From the  
Assistant Rector*



Friends,

Lots of exciting things are starting to happen around here. We've got a number of fun things planned through the beginning of March, after which I'll be taking off for a few weeks to study in Israel.

February will start with the Mission Trip group coming together to make pizzas in an effort to raise money for the trip down to New Orleans at the end of the month. On the 13<sup>th</sup> the Middle School will go ice-skating at Boss Arena. Finally, on the 20<sup>th</sup>, a group of twenty-five will travel to New Orleans to do some rebuilding work and return back on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Finally, on March 5 the high school youth group will take a day ski trip. I'm still working on the details for that; I'll pass those along when they're finalized.

The Variety Show will also be coming up soon. If you're interested in taking part in this, start thinking about your act now. If you don't want to take part I hope you'll plan on coming out to watch and enjoy. The details are being worked out now, but it looks like it will be taking place in the beginning of April.

If any adults out there are interested in helping with the youth ministries in any way, please don't hesitate to be in touch- we're always thankful to have help.

Have a great month!

**Upcoming Dates:**

2/2, 2/9/, 2/16- Wednesday Night Evening Prayer and Dinner

2/5- Missioner Pizza Making

2/13- Middle School Youth Ice Skating at Boss Arena

2/20-2/26- Mission Trip

3/5- High School Ski Trip (details TBD)

3/9-3/26- I'll be away in Israel

Yours in Christ,

Patrick

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**John 2:1-11. *The servants who had drawn the water knew.***

At the marriage feast in Cana of Galilee, it was Mary who saw the need and interceded, saying to Jesus, "They have no wine." And it was Jesus who changed the water into wine. But it was left to the servant to do the work. Mary said, "Do whatever he tells you." Jesus said, "Fill the jars with water," and then, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." And it was only when they did that—only in the act of pouring itself—that the water was seen to have become wine.

We are the servants: the church is a society of servants. We're to serve the guests at God's party—all the guests, whether we would have invited them ourselves or not. God gives the wine of his presence through us. He runs his household through us. He feeds his hungry guests through our hands. We fill the jugs with water and pour it out because that's the way God has arranged it.

He could do otherwise. God could get along without the church. But he doesn't choose to. He gives his guests into the hands of his household. The great outpouring of God's charity is in our hands. (1970)

***Forward DAY BY DAY***



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

Thank you to all who participated and attended the Epiphany Evensong in the Old Narragansett Church. Thank you to David Dobbins who so ably served as officiant. Thank you to the Magi for your majestic presence: Nick Jorgensen, Troy Crawford and choir alum Marc Donnelly. A special word of thanks to the Altar Guild for making the church and the Greenway beautiful with luminaires. Thank you to our fearless sexton Bill Healey, for clearing the ice and snow. Thank you to our hospitality team for preparing an elegant reception worthy of the three kings themselves! The choir continued the celebration with a choir party at Tina Butler's home. St. Paul's Choir has a great time whether we are singing together or having a party. **Now is a great time to consider joining one of the choirs, even for a particular season, perhaps Easter/Holy Week?** Please see me at coffee hour or contact me at the church 294-4357, ext. 106 for more info.

St. Paul's Youth Choir rehearsed January 29 with 50 other choristers from the state associated with the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) for the Diocesan "All-State Evensong" which will take place March 13 at 5:00pm at St. Peter's by the Sea in Narragansett. Everyone is invited to attend this great service which brings together youth from all over the Diocese. Please see me or Maria Hyde to sign up for youth choir. Rozanne Fuller has planned some great music for St. Paul's Children's Choir for the Easter liturgy. Please see Rozanne or me to sign up.

Thank you for your support of the music ministries at St. Paul's!

Peace,

*Mark*

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

We welcomed our students back on Monday January 3, 2011, after a wonderful holiday vacation. Our 3's and 4's both began the New Year with a unit on winter weather. We talked about hibernation, adaptation and of course migration. We learned about animals who live in our area in the Winter and how they adapt to survive.

Our 3's had their annual visit from the Audubon Society of RI with the story of The Mitten by Jan Brett. They were treated to a surprise visit of a real live owl after the presentation. The 3's also experimented with sensory boxes of snow and ice. They predicted what would happen and observed the changes that took place during the day as the ice and snow melted and turned to water.

Our 4's finished their color unit with the color purple with the book Harold's Purple Crayon. We continued our number unit learning about the numbers 8 and 9 for our number books. We also began our alphabet unit. On Show and Tell days, we asked parents to help their children find something to bring in that begins with the letter and letter sound of the day. During the winter months when we can't go outside as much due to the weather, we go upstairs for P.E. or Physical Education to exercise. We ended the month with a unit on the Chinese culture and the Chinese New Year.

We were visited by Child Outreach who came to conduct a free screening for the students at St. Paul's. Child Outreach screens for speech, general development, hearing, gross motor and vision. The results of these screenings are very valuable for classroom planning for the remainder of the school year.

Registrations for next year are in full swing. Deposits for September 2011 are beginning to come in. We will continue to take names of 3 and 4 year olds until the classes are full. Call us @295-7320 to schedule a visit and to pick up an application for the 2011 – 2012 school year.

God Bless, *Linda*

## Sunday School News

It's well documented that children "learn by doing". In December, examples of this were in evidence throughout the Parish Hall. First, we had a lesson by Bonnie Smith about the needs of families in North Kingstown. She told us that some families don't have enough to eat, or even enough toilet paper in their houses. She encouraged us to think about others, help bring food in to the NK food pantry, and most importantly to pray for those in need. Simple acts to help families and children in their own town and schools. Sunday school families responded to this lesson by helping supply items for the Christmas baskets. Food came streaming in to the Parish Hall. Children also used their talents to make Christmas cards to accompany the baskets. Messages of caring were sent out to families in North Kingstown. The most powerful lesson was done by the parents themselves. Numerous families assisted in the packing and delivering of the baskets prior to Christmas day. We can tell our children how they should act, but by having our children participate and witness the actual helping of others, they experience the powerful lesson of doing God's work.

Thank you to all the families who helped out with our Community service projects in December. Our "Pennies for Peace" project is drawing to a close. So far, we are at \$140 and still counting (about 10 lbs more to go). The children are all excited about how many pencils they will have purchased for children in Central Asia. At a penny a piece, that's a lot of pencils... and books, and teacher's salaries. This project has turned out to be even more important since the recent floods in Pakistan. Thank you so much for your generosity.

We have lots of great projects in the works for the future. We will be making Valentine Cards for homebound parishioners this month. Thank you to Marci O'Connor for helping us organize this project and to the LEMS for helping to deliver these cards. The children love sharing their creativity with others. In January, we focused on how we can be "like Jesus" and what does that mean to us. For February, we will have some special activities to put these thoughts into action. If you want to see how toothpaste, telephones, and piñatas can get worked into a lesson come join us for a very powerful, but fun lesson. Remember, it's never too late to register for classes and friends are always welcome.



We are looking for several new teachers for next year. Sadly for the Sunday school, a number of our teachers have felt the need to move on to other callings within the church. We thank these wonderful people for all their time and dedication that they have given to the children and youth of St. Paul's. We support your decision, but feel the loss to our program. If anyone has the interest to become a teacher next year or just wants more information, please contact me at home 294-9908 or on Sunday mornings. No experience is necessary, just a love of children and a willingness to lead them in their spiritual lessons. Curriculum is provided and newer teachers are paired with more experienced ones. This year, if you are interested, we can have you shadow some classes to help make the transition simpler. Teachers are needed in a variety of positions, from the little ones through Confirmation class. Confirmation teachers are willing to work with you this year and share their experiences and lesson plans. Please help us educate the youth of St. Paul's and volunteer to teach a class. We have been blessed in past years to be able to provide classes for all ages of children through High School and would like to be able to continue to do that in the future. Personally, I have been teaching here for 14 years and can say that this has been my most rewarding experience in this Parish. It has allowed me to grow spiritually and honestly has been a lot of fun. The teachers and students are wonderful. So please, join us and help the children and yourself learn to be "like Jesus". The need is great but the rewards are heavenly.

Enjoy the beauty of the snow and I'll see you on Sunday mornings.

### Important Sunday School Dates

- Regular Sunday school will be held February 6, 13, 27, and March 6.
- There will be a **mandatory** clergy-led confirmation class on February 13, during regular class time.
- There will be no Sunday school February 20<sup>th</sup> due to school vacation week.
- **Confirmation** will be held this year on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2 p.m. at St. Luke's, East Greenwich. Please notify your teachers or Lori Lamb if this conflicts with your schedule.
- **The date for Youth Sunday has been changed to May 15<sup>th</sup>, during the 9:30 a.m. service.** Please note this on your calendars.

Lori



## Pledge/Budget Update

The Pledge Team reports that as of January 16, 2011, 197 pledging units have pledged \$360,065.49.

This is approximately \$30,000 less than the amount pledged last year; however, the average amount per pledge has increased. Pledging is an act of faithful stewardship and the Parish can be grateful to all who have made that commitment. If you have not yet pledged (about 200 listed as active members in our database have not yet pledged), it is never too late--pledging is a year-round activity!

The Vestry approved the proposed 2011 Budget with a shortfall of about \$12,000 if the proposed cuts to program/maintenance are not made in the second quarter. Additional pledges received in the first quarter could reduce the need for cuts and balance the budget for the remainder of the year.

## Self-Study Update

The Self-Study Team continues to meet twice monthly to produce the Parish Profile. The Profile is the document, both hard-copy and on-line, that is used to recruit the new Rector for St. Paul's. In a nutshell, the Profile is the story of St. Paul's--past, present and hopes for the future. Currently the Team is compiling and writing up the results of the 50+ surveys/core values submitted by parishioners, including information gathered at the Meetings with the Self-Study Team members. They are also deciding on a format for the presentation of the Profile. When a draft is completed, it will be presented to the Parish for comment. If you have questions or wish to add your thoughts/comments, please contact a member of the Team directly or through the Church office.

## Benefit for Meeting Street

Come join local rock band *Remedy* for an evening of good music for a great cause. All proceeds will benefit *Meeting Street School for Children with Special Needs*.



The event will be held in the St. Paul's Parish Hall on Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 8 PM. Admission is free, but donations are welcome.

For more information, please visit [remedykn.com](http://remedykn.com)



## THOUGHTS TO PONDER

Listen to your heart  
For within there is an "ear"  
Attuned to God's voice.  
—Peggy Ferrell

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"I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour if we will only tune in."  
—George Washington Carver

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If you want peace of mind, resign as general manager of the universe.

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