

St. Paul's Episcopal Church



Love Never Ends

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 GOOD
SHEPHERD**

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.

John 10: 1-18

The objective of the shepherd was to look after the welfare of the sheep - to find enough food and make certain the sheep did not get lost in dark ravines but walked along secure paths.

What a consolation it is to know that Jesus is our Good Shepherd. If we are in his fold, we are sure to be in good hands and excellent company. He offers us good food, security, and protection.

It is not easy to stand firm on the just and right road. It is very easy to deviate to dangerous paths. The world around seeks to ensnare us with what looks like good grass. We get lost. This happens to us when we abandon the Good Shepherd, when we rely only on ourselves. If we really are with Christ, we find true happiness.

*Forward - Day by Day
Wednesday, February 15*



**From the
Interim Rector**

Dear Friends,

Consider this a personal invitation to attend a series of conversations being hosted by Patrick and I about the nature of the Episcopal Church—our history as part of the Anglican Communion, our worship, and the evolution of our theology and practice. This group is open to all; it is a great "refresher" course in living the Episcopal life, a preparation for baptism or being received into the Episcopal Church, or to satisfy your curiosity about all things Episcopal. It may be that you know a little or a lot about being a Christian and/or being an Episcopalian: whatever your present understanding and experience I hope you will consider joining us!

The plan is to meet in Lent, and to be together as we prepare for Easter. We will meet on Wednesday evenings ("Wednesday Night Live") on the following dates:

February 29; March 7, 14, 21, 28

The schedule is as follows:

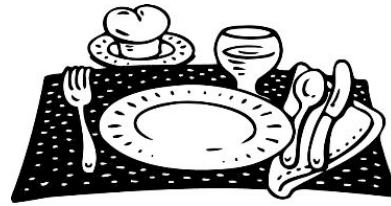
- 5:30: Eucharist in the Church**
- 6:15: Pot-luck soup, salad and bread**
- 6:45: Class and conversation**
- 8:00: Dismissal**

It may be that you can come for only part of each evening, or for only part of the series and we can work with that. Telephone the office at 401 294 4357 ext. 100 or email office@stpaulswickford.org to register your intention to come so that we can order materials to support you in this inquiry.

If you would like to join us but feel this plan won't work for you at all please let me know what might make a difference—another time of day or day of the week; the provision of child care; etc. Communicate by email at rector@stpaulswickford.org or by phone 401 294-4357 (Deb Mahoney, our Administrator, keeps my calendar and can arrange a time for us to speak.) I look forward to hearing from you!

Peace,

W. David Dobbins Interim Rector



*Community
Dinners*

The Ecumenical Community Dinners are taking place each Sunday at 1:00 pm. They are sponsored by: First Baptist of North Kingstown, First Baptist of Wickford, St.

Bernard's RCC, St. Paul's Episcopal, North Kingstown United Methodist, St. Francis de sales RCC.

There are many reasons why a person might have a need to eat in community, including the loss or reduction of wages or benefits, or those in need of fellowship or a spiritual boost. Some come because of hard economic times and life circumstances that necessitate that they stretch their dollars. Whatever the reason, all are welcome to eat in community free of charge. If you know someone who would like to participate in feeding and serving the dinner guests, please invite them to come any Sunday and learn more about this community outreach program.

Schedule:

**February
First Baptist of Wickford Church
44 Main St., Wickford**

**March 4 and 11
St. Paul's Episcopal Church Parish House
76 Main St., Wickford**

The more we understand about the context of a person's behavior, the more we are inclined toward generosity of spirit. I think Jesus must have understood context. He understood, he forgave. In love with us, he forgave. And still forgives. His love, in us, inclines our hearts to do the same.

From the
Assistant Rector



Friends,
Things will look a little different this month than they do on the schedule I passed out in September. Instead of having a Senior High Youth meeting on

February 26th we'll be going tubing at Yawgoog, since it was a little too warm in January. If you would like to go on that trip you need to let me know by the Wednesday before, the 22nd, and I'll need a permission slip and release form from Yawgoog (both of which you can get from me). The Middle School will gather on Sunday the 19th to have dinner and watch a movie together from 5-7. On Sunday the 12th we'll be holding our annual Variety Show, come on out and show off a talent or see some of the amazing talents of our other parishioners.

On Tuesday the 7th we'll be hosting a spaghetti dinner working with the Beach Rose Cafe; donations at the door will support the Food Pantry. If anyone needs community service, or would just like to help out, there will be plenty of work to be done.

Our Wednesday Night meetings will continue-- come out and join us as we gather at 5:30 for evening prayer, dinner and time to just relax and hang out. We will continue to skip the third Wednesday of the month, the 15th this month. Starting on the 29th our meetings will temporarily change format again like they did during Advent. We will gather at 5:30 in the Church with the Wednesday Night Live group to celebrate the Eucharist. We will then eat dinner and have time together from 6-7. Unlike during Advent we will not extend our time and watch a movie, but you are all invited to stay and take part in the Inquirer's class that Fr. David and myself will be holding (sort of an Episcopal Church 101). I encourage you all to come out for all of it, but feel free to show up for as much or little as you are able to.

Have a great month!

- 2/7- Fundraiser Dinner for North Kingstown Food Pantry
- 2/12- St. Paul's Variety Show
- 2/15- No Wednesday Night Youth Group
- 2/19- Middle School Movie Night
- 2/22- Ash Wednesday
- 2/26- Snow Tubing at Yawgoog

Yours in Christ,
Patrick+



from the Dir. of Music
and Liturgy:

Dr. Mark is on sabbatical leave. His Music/Choir news will return next month.

January 2012 Christian Action Notes

In January, we allocated \$500 each to the Good Neighbor Energy Fund and to Travelers' Aid.

St Paul's members rang the bells for the **Salvation Army kettle** in front of Dave's on Saturday, December 3, 2011. The drive collected \$7745 total, \$801 of which was gathered by our group!

These funds go to the local organization. Many thanks to **Peggy Sagnella, Thomasine Manickas, Ninni Jacob, Jane Dobbins, Tina Egan, Mimi Dyer, Dan Dyer, Ruth Ann Lewis, Dick Lewis** and **Jack Fronce** (who did double duty as a solo ringer!).

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Godley

Sunday School News



It's hard to believe the holidays are behind us and we're in the full swing of the winter months. The pageant is over and we can settle into a comfortable routine for the next few months. In addition to our lessons and an occasional Eucharist service, we are looking forward to some fun activities and have already kicked off our latest community service project with the classes.

Thank you to everyone who made the pageant a success. The kids did a great job learning their lines and singing their songs. We even had a few last minute participants who did a great job. Thank you to Kevin O'Connor, Buddy Cavaleri, Jesse-Ray Leich, Joseph Smith and Updyke's Rose for providing the music. Rini GeorgeKutty, Kristen Vito-Silva and her son Jamison helped guide the shepherds, sheep, and wisemen on their way to Bethlehem. Thank you to all the parents who helped dress the children and a special thank you to Sheryl MacDougall-Fusco who miraculously made a backstage appearance, just in time, to make sure all were in costume in time for the service to begin. Finally, thank you to the clergy for their support of the pageant, and to Bill for his clean-up of angel wings and halos after the service and his expertise in rebuilding the manger.

For our latest community service project, the Sunday school offering will be donated to the North Kingstown Food Pantry. The pantry's director Bonnie Smith spoke to the children about the needs of the poor and hungry in our community. Everyone was made aware of the great need to help those less fortunate in our town. Many of the children did not know that so many of the children they attend school with don't have enough money to buy food. Some of these children go hungry on weekends and vacations, or may never get a snack when they return home from school. The Sunday school children are encouraged throughout the school year to help those in need. During the Epiphany season, they are encouraged to think about and pray for those who are hungry and homeless. Each week, we will be accepting donations in a good will offering along with canned goods; each will be donated to the North

Kingstown Food Pantry. This will continue until the beginning of Lent (Ash Wednesday).

Thank you for all the support given to the Sunday school up to this mid-year point. We're enjoying the many activities, games and crafts that the teachers have set up to reinforce each lesson and are looking forward to some of our favorite group activities, such as making Valentines for homebound parishioners. It is never too late to register and friends are always welcome.

Important Sunday School Dates

February 5, 12, 26 Regular Sunday school
February 12 Fifth Grade choir loft tour with Dr. Mark
February 19 No Sunday school / Community worship (school vacation week)
March 4 Sunday school Eucharist service during class time (Parish Hall)

Lori

St. Paul's Follies 2012" A Variety Show

Sunday February 12, 2012 3:30 PM

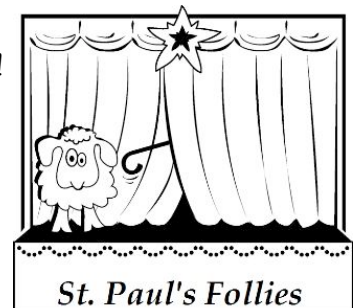
Parish Hall

Free Will Offering to benefit
St. Paul's Youth Mission Trip

Refreshments

Fun for the whole family!

Bring your friends!!



“Weekday” Nursery School Newsletter:

As required by the state of Rhode Island, St. Paul’s Nursery School has implemented a standards based program in planning for our children’s education. Standards are defined as, “What children should know and be able to do,” based upon child development theory and current education research and practice. In a standards based program there are four main areas of focus: Curriculum; Assessment; Differentiated Teaching and Learning; Family Engagement.

Since we are coming upon Child Outreach Screenings the end of January and Parent/ Teacher Conferences in February and March, I will talk about assessments this month.

The state of RI requires that all children are screened prior to entering kindergarten. St. Paul’s Nursery School takes this a step further and requires that all children are screened prior to entering our programs at St. Paul’s.

What is CHILD OUTREACH?

Child Outreach is a free service sponsored by the RI Department of Education and offered through the North Kingstown School Department. The program provides families with information about their child’s development and offers information about other resources that are available to families through the community. The information about your child’s development is gathered through participating in a series of game-like activities, which looks at learning skills, hearing, vision and speech. Most children enjoy this experience and want to participate again. This all happens at our school.

Assessments for the Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences take place in February for our four year olds and in March for our three’s. St. Paul’s has developed assessment tools for both our three and four year old programs that align with our curriculum and also follows the eight domains in the RI Early Learning Standards that I

spoke of in previous newsletters. While conferences typically take place once or twice a year, (or at a teacher or parent request), assessments are ongoing throughout the day, week, month and year.

Continuous, authentic assessments help teachers to realize what children know, where children have grown, and to document the progress they have made over time. Assessment information also helps teachers evaluate their own teaching practices. It helps teachers to identify areas that they need to adjust and modify in their curriculum to be more effective in reaching all the children in their program.

Registrations for the academic year 2012-2013 are underway. If you know of any 3 or 4 year olds who would enjoy our programs here at St. Paul’s, please direct them to us. They can give us a call (295-7320) to schedule a visit.

We have received two donations with the express intention of establishing a separate account for tuition assistance for nursery school students in need. For anyone who would like to contribute to this worthy cause, please contact the school or Cheryl Suglia, our Vestry liaison.

Blessings,

Linda

Good News

It is with great joy and thanksgiving that we report that St.Paul's surpassed its \$40,000 goal for Episcopal Charities! Our gratitude to all who gave so generously.

Jeff and Thomasine Manickas



Church Archives



Mining the Parish Archives

For the past several months Linda Stevens and Pat Carlson have been meeting on a regular basis to sort and organize the historical documents related to the Old Narragansett Church and St. Paul's. This effort is in preparation for the transfer of many of the documents to URI where they will become part of the history of the Episcopal Church in Rhode Island. The URI library has the sort of climate controlled conditions needed for the continued preservation of these one-of-a-kind papers and will make them available to researchers while St. Paul's retains ownership of the material. The Diocese has already transferred much of its material to URI as have several parishes throughout the diocese.

The examination of so much of St. Paul's history has revealed some interesting and illuminating details of parish life in the past. Other columns will appear periodically to highlight these insights, but this article will focus on three. First, was the enormous role played by the women of St. Paul's. They organized at different times into distinct groups: the St. Agnes Society, the Women's Sewing Circle, the Women's Auxiliary, and the ECW. All of the groups were devoted to doing good works. They supported mission work throughout the United States; they paid a portion of the rector's salary, and they were known far and wide for their excellent hospitality. Their lobster and clam dinners, served each summer, were mentioned in the advertising of the Providence Steamship line which brought day trippers to Wickford in the late 19th century.

The second item worthy of note is the importance of the Parish Guild Hall to the entire community of Wickford and the surrounding villages. The Guild Hall (now a bright blue private residence near the Hussey Bridge) was for a time the core of the

community. It offered a coffee room for people looking for refreshment and conversation, and it also was the site of the first lending library in Wickford and the precursor to the North Kingstown Free Library. All of the aforementioned Ladies' groups met there, and a very real effort was made to provide some service to all segments of the town.

A desire to provide for adolescents led to our third interesting discovery. The church purchased and maintained a standard pool table, intended to bring recreation in a structured environment to the boys and young men of the parish. It is not clear what the age limit was for playing, but each boy who played had to have a letter of permission signed by a parent. Several of these notes survive. One suggests that a son may play pool "as long as it's free." Another states that permission is granted provided that there is someone present "to guarantee that the game is fairly played." What a contrast to Harold Hill and his attempts to bring pool to River City! As an aside...the pool table was finally sold in the late 1950s when the room it was occupying at the current Parish House was needed for Sunday School.

We can be justifiably pleased that our forebears were as attuned to the condition of others as we are today. We are built on a firm foundation of God's calling and their good works.

The Senior Lunch held on December 8, 2011 was enjoyed by approximately 45 attendees. We would like to thank all who came and contributed to a truly blessed gathering!!

We look forward to our next time in May.

Kay Cutting & Anne Bowen

If you would like to ensure the future of St. Paul's through a gift in your will or estate plan, please contact the office at 294-4357 to request a Legacy brochure.
