

# St. Paul's Episcopal Church



## epiphany

A Monthly Newsletter

November 2011

### 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 Prayer of Self-Dedication*

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you,

so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations,

so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you;

and then use us, we pray you, as you will,

and always to your glory and the welfare of your people;

through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen





**From the  
Interim  
Rector  
Blessed  
Christmas**

Dear Friends,

The chorus of angels that shocked and delighted the shepherds is still among us, and our attention is alerted to their presence this Christmas season. It is in the spirit of Christmas that we embrace intrusions—even shockingly disturbing ones—as potential harbingers of God’s grace leading us into new experiences of peace and joy. Things may have seemed settled and well before—we were, like the shepherds just minding our own business—when something intruded into the accustomed and familiar. What is this? Why is this? Let’s get up, and let’s go and see. Perhaps something new and wonderful is being born into our midst.

As we welcome the Christ child this season, I invite you to remember that His appearing (and His ministry), though ultimately welcomed in time, was initially shocking and disturbing. Angels are disruptive—but oh how we need them! Angels are in our midst every season—and this Christmas may we all hearken to the call of the angels, leave the accustomed and familiar, and be guided into new places of peace and joy.

In closing, I offer you this poem by Lawrence Housman passed on to me by a dear colleague and friend:

**LIGHT**

**Looked down and beheld  
darkness.  
‘Thither will I go,’ said Light.  
Peace looked down and beheld  
war.  
‘Thither will I go,’ said Peace.  
Love looked down and beheld  
hate.  
‘Thither will I go,’ said Love.  
So light came and shone.  
So peace came, and gave rest.  
So love came, and gave light.  
And the Word was made flesh,  
and dwelt among us.**

May we each and all know the light of Christ this Christmas, and always.

Peace, love and joy.

David+

W. David Dobbins, Jr.



Light, Peace and Love

*From the  
Assistant Rector*



Friends,  
Happy New  
Year! I have  
g r e a t l y  
enjoyed the  
p a s t f o u r  
months with  
you all here at

St. Paul's and I am very excited for upcoming year. I want to thank each and everyone of you for welcoming me into this parish and making these first few months so great.

I am writing this a week out from my ordination and I am very excited for this day to come. I officially began the process within the Diocese of Rhode Island about four and a half years ago, but I have been on this path since high school so it is truly closer to a ten-year journey. There have been many people here who have helped to pull this together, and I am very thankful for all of you. I also greatly appreciate everyone who will be with me on that day, whether in person or by your thoughts and prayers.

In January we'll continue to have weekly meetings on Wednesday nights, including a brief service of evening prayer, dinner, and time to just hang out with each other. On Sunday Jan. 16 the high school youth will meet at 5pm in the Guild Room. The middle school will meet the following Sunday, Jan. 23, to go tubing at Yawgoo Valley and then return to the parish hall for hot chocolate and pizza (I will make announcements and send e-mails out regarding exact times details). I'm planning a day ski trip for the high school youth, tentatively scheduled for Saturday March 5, so high-school youth need not feel left out from this; they'll get their trip a little later.

The Mission Trip group is up and running; on February 19 youth and six adults will travel to New Orleans to help with the continuing rebuilding efforts. In the coming months we will be seeking to fundraise money for this effort. All fundraising efforts will be announced to the parish

and we greatly appreciate any and all support we receive.

Finally, this March I will be spending a few weeks in Jerusalem taking a course through St. George's College. St. George's College runs a number of two week travel courses throughout the year. I will be taking a course entitled "Palestine of Jesus" so I will travel to and become familiar with the places of Jesus' ministry. I am very excited for this opportunity and can't wait to share with you all after I return.

Upcoming Dates through March:

- 1/5, 1/12, 1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 3/2- Wednesday Night service and dinner 5:30-7:00 pm
- 1/16- High School Youth Group Meeting 5-6 pm in the Guild Room
- 1/23- Tubing at Yawgoo Valley for Middle School Youth followed by hot chocolate and pizza back at St. Paul's
- 2/13- Middle School Youth Trip to be determined (I'm looking at Monster Golf or Ice Skating -any other ideas are welcome too)
- 2/20-2/26- Mission Trip
- 3/5- Tentative High School Ski Trip
- 3/9-27- I will be away studying in Jerusalem

Yours in Christ,  
*Patrick*



"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

—Martin Luther King Jr.



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

Many thanks to all of our Parish musicians for sharing their gifts especially during the busy Advent and Christmas season. Kudos to Parish Choir members Ellen Abell, David Abell, Walter Burrows, Tina Butler, Troy Crawford, Susan Cerullo, Jill Clement, Gail Cyr, Camilla de Rochambeau, Rozanne Fuller, Ted Gale, Marianne Goodrich, Mary B. Hall, Diane Hoffman, Nick Jorgensen, Dora Martorelli, Norman Poulin, Eleanor Ricci, Ninni Jacob, Nancy Shanahan, Diane Slader, June Spink, Tom Spink, Mary Stuart.

St. Paul's Youth Choir directed by Maria Hyde: Sophie Brown, Sarah Cavaleri, Sophie Change, Sophia Fusco, Elizabeth Fusco, Chelsea Kuiper, and Lydia Rumowicz.

St. Paul's Children's Choir directed by Rozanne Fuller: Pauline Chang, Caleb Cranston, Riley Cavaleri, Mia Panarelli, Grace Rumowicz, and Siân Morgan.

You give heart, soul, mind and voice and it is a joy making music with you! Thank you to parishioners for your support of the music ministry at St. Paul's! We could not do it without you! If you or your child has interest in joining a choir at St. Paul's, please don't hesitate to let me know at 294-4357, ext. 106. We are always welcoming new members!

Thank you to our very gifted instrumentalists Pat Petersen, violinist, and Jessye-Ray Leich, timpanist and drummer, and Mason Hyde, drummer. Thank you also to Kevin O'Connor, Joe Smith, and the musicians of Updyke's Rose for providing special music during the Christmas season!

Thank you to David Dobbins for officiating at the Advent Lessons and Carols service and to our illustrious readers: Megan McKenney, representing the acolyte ministry; Julie Calabrese, St. Paul's Youth; Rex Brewer, Usher ministry coordinator; Martha Parks, senior warden, and Patrick Greene, Assistant to the Rector. Thank you altar guild for making the church beautiful with flora and candle light. Thank you ushers Rex Brewer and Larry Fuller. And thank you hospitality team for the delicious and elegant reception in the Parish Hall. Guest trumpeters from Brown University were Matt Block and Kurt Walters. Thank you to Tina Butler and Carol Palmer for your great publicity for this well attended event! Many thanks to our multi-talented Parish Administrator Debbie Mahoney for her preparation of over six different bulletins for the Christmas Holidays and at the same time juggling every other detail with such aplomb!

Everyone is invited to St. Paul's annual Epiphany Evensong January 9 at 7pm at The Old Narragansett Church. The Parish Choir will offer music of Herbert Howells, Everett Titcomb, and Thomas Morley. Following Evensong, the hospitality team will host a reception in the Parish Hall. Bring a friend, a coat and a lantern or flashlight, to the unheated church built in 1707!

Happy New Year!,  
*Mark*



***We should always be turning the name  
of Jesus Christ round the spaces of our heart,  
as lightning circles round the skies before  
rain.***

Hesychius of Jersualem



*Silent Night, Holy Night. All is calm, all is bright.*

The words capture the essence of the season. You can picture Mary holding her newborn baby and just marveling at this beautiful creation. Imagine seeing her face as she realizes that she holds God's son. I'm sure she could feel His awesome presence with her in that quiet stable. What a powerful and life changing moment.

Silent is the opposite of the state of the parish hall and Sunday school in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Costumes are drying in the office. Children run through the hall holding their scripts. Meetings go on, choirs rehearse, tables go up; despite all the chaos, if you watch closely, you can see the presence of God.

He is there in the angelic voices of the Sunday school as the practice their songs. He's there in the faces of the kids when they find what part they have in the Pageant. The teachers can see Him as they watch these children put such love in to the making of the cards for the Christmas baskets. His love is shown by the caring people who help prepare the community lunches, and in the consolation of others who are suffering and hurt. The Parish Hall is anything but silent in these days leading up to Christmas, but it is alive with the Holy Spirit. Despite the mess, God is willing to be with us, just as He did in that stable long ago. We just need to quiet ourselves and listen for Him.

As December draws to a close, I would like to thank all the families and parishioners who have supported us through this busy time. Thank you to Kevin O'Connor for leading all of us in song. You have a wonderful gift of music and we thank you for sharing it with us. You're the best. Thank you to all the parents and teachers who helped out with the Christmas cards and Pageant. These project couldn't happen with you.

Hope all of you enjoy the holidays and find peace in your lives. See you in the New Year.

### **Important Sunday School Dates**

There will be no Sunday school on January 2 due to school vacation week.

*Lori*



### **Senior Christmas Luncheon**

A joyous time was had by all who attended the third St. Paul's Senior Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 2, 2010.

#### **Decorations**

included a tree loaned by Sande Horan and her daughter Kaitlyn and holly from the Horan farm. After a blessing given by Rev. Deacon Patrick Greene, everyone enjoyed Christmas cookies and Clare Parker's decorated cake. Richard Whaley, who had the birthday closest to Christmas, took home the gingerbread house. A highlight of the gathering was Christmas songs and ornaments for the tree presented by St. Paul's Nursery School. Everyone went home with a piece of fresh holly, homemade Christmas cookies and a unique handmade ornament by Ann Marie Evon. Thanks to all who made this gathering memorable for the happiness they bring to others; thanks also to St. Paul's Vestry for their continued support of the Senior Ministries.

Peace in the New Year,  
Kay Cutting and Anne Bowen



# Annual Meeting

## Annual Meeting Format

The following procedure will be

followed to elect Officers and Vestry at the Annual Meeting on January 30:

- the candidates for each position will be introduced
- the positions of Senior Warden, Junior Warden and Treasurer have one candidate each
- the positions for Vestry have eight candidates to fill five positions

**SR.WARDEN** Raymond Jorgensen (one candidate-one vote required)

**JR. WARDEN** Katherine Bellows (one candidate-one vote required)

**TREASURER** Kirsten Rounds (one candidate-one vote required)

**VESTRY CANDIDATES:** (Choose five)

- Cheryl Suglia
- Martha Hitchcock
- Wil Tolhurst, Jr.
- Jane Rawlings
- Jim Wilson
- Karen Sternberg
- Leslie Kershaw
- Walter Burrows III

**DELEGATES TO THE 2011 DIOCESAN CONVENTION** (Choose four)

- Jayne McBride
- John Leite
- Martha Parks
- Wil Tolhurst

Biographical information and statements of commitments to St. Paul's for all candidates are available in the narthex and on the website, [stpaulswickford.org](http://stpaulswickford.org).

Voting by those in attendance will be by paper ballot and results will be announced by the chair of the Nominating Committee:

- John Leite, Chair
- Jayne McBride
- Martha Parks
- Wil Tolhurst

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## The Faith Community Fund

Dear Friends,

I hope you know that the Rector's Discretionary Fund benefits from a percentage of the pledge income each year, and through this Fund we support those in our parish and in the area who are in financial need. This year a portion of those funds has been deposited with the North Kingstown Senior and Social Services Department to be available to their social workers to administer as a "Faith Community Fund." We hope that, in time, other area churches will contribute to the Faith Community Fund, and join us in offering support to those in need who would otherwise fall through the cracks of the social service network. The first quarterly report has been given to me documenting the use of the fund, and I want you to know that though your generosity rental assistance has been offered to two families who were under threat of eviction due to financial hardship. On behalf of these anonymous families—Thank you!

Peace.

David+

## Adventure in Awareness

**SAVE THE DATE  
SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 12, 2011**

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 in 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 1<sup>st</sup> before workshop)

If curious or interested please contact Jeff Manickas or Tina Butler

Jeff 884-0792  
[Manickasja@cox.net](mailto:Manickasja@cox.net)  
Tina 294-2711  
Tina\_Butler@cox.net



Dear Friends,  
It is with great gratitude that I acknowledge all the goodness in operation this season through all of you who participated in the 2010

Christmas Basket program. On behalf of us all I offer thanksgiving for the ministries of the leadership of this event that distributed over 7 tons of food for the benefit of 107 area families (representing 424 adults and children) in need. Please join me in extending your personal thanks to: Pinkie Sweet Holland, Ted Seymour, Gidget Loomis, the Rev. Sue Stiles, Jane and Bob Brockway, and Walt Burrows. Bless you all!

Peace.  
David+

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### **The meaning of Epiphany**

Epiphany begins on January 6 each year. It gets its name from the Greek word epiphaneia, meaning 'to appear, to show or to manifest.' The ending date of the Epiphany season is determined by Ash Wednesday, which is determined by the date of



Easter.

Traditionally, Epiphany Day marks the coming of the Magi to worship the infant Jesus. The significance of Epiphany for Christians is that it symbolizes the first recognition of Christ by non-Jews.

The season of Epiphany emphasizes the divine nature of Jesus - a truth that justifies his perfection as the model of real life. The color of Epiphany is green to symbolize life, growth, hope and eternity, which are all characteristics of the Epiphany emphasis.

## 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.

Psalm 118: *On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.*

What a motivating, get-up-and-get-going statement this is. Any morning that I can awaken with this verse in my heart and on my lips has a good chance of being great and productive. Any day that I can wake up without picking up a load of past failures and fears, angers, and sorrows, is a day I can live in the joy and power of my Christian faith. Yesterday is gone.

*This is the day!*

On those mornings when I awaken with the sense of joyful possibilities, I know those possibilities are apt to reach fruition before nightfall. This *is* the day that the Lord has made and has acted, and I *will* rejoice and be glad in it, and I will use its hours in ways that please God and serve my brothers and sisters.

Yesterday and tomorrow are out of our reach and in God's hands. Let us thank God for today and make the most of it. Let us allow God's grace to make the most of us.

*We can find all that is necessary in the present moment.... Our sole satisfaction must be to live in the present moment as if there were nothing to look for beyond it.*

- Jean Pierre de Caussade

(Forward **DAY BY DAY** Saturday, January 8  
Harriet Bedell)

The psalmist celebrates the coming of a new day - the glory of God. This is a gracious opportunity to improve it to His glory. In doing so, we focus on our own inner spiritual selves. We may reject a part of ourselves because it seems weak but later realize that it is a strength. Perhaps it causes us to rely on God more. Or perhaps we discover that our "weakness" is a diamond in the rough that needs to be shaped and polished. In a journal or with a soul friend, reflect on what you reject in yourself: a tendency to talk too much or too little, a certain compulsivity. What might God be showing you through it?

