

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.

O Come
Let us
Adore
Him



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.

*From the
Interim Rector*



Dear Friends,

Pray, Eat, Work.

Business unusual—be a part of it at St. Paul’s.

Please mark your calendars and make every effort to be present at the Annual Luncheon and Meeting of the Corporation of St. Paul’s Church being held in the Parish Hall on Sunday January 29th following the 9:30 service. That day we will:

Pray together

Feast together

Work together

The agenda-in-brief of the Annual Meeting is to:

- Celebrate the past together
- Accomplishments of the team ministries
- Reports from the clergy and staff
- Review an accounting of our 2011 financial life
- Prepare for the future together
- Plans to welcome the next Rector
- Elect new Vestry members and delegates
- Plan for a year of service
- Review the 2012 Budget

All of this is “business unusual” as the Holy Spirit breathes through all aspects of our common life making our worship, our feasting, and our work sacred. This is a model for our individual and family lives as well—we are called to serve God in all we are and all we do, and to look for God to be present in and through all things.

This is what we do together throughout the year. We worship, we feast, we work. Please make a point to be with us at the Annual Meeting and throughout the year. Without you we are less than God has called us to be—with you we all hear more clearly the call of God as we worship, feast and work together.

Business unusual—be a part of it!

Peace.

David+

The WNL Lord's Prayer

The following is a version of the Lord's prayer which is the result of the workshop based on Prayers of the Cosmos held as part of Wednesday Night Live in Advent. Each member of the group took a line of the Lord's prayer, considered the meaning of the Aramaic words Jesus spoke in teaching the prayer, and when we put it all together this is the result. We felt the Holy Spirit at work in us and among us. Thanks be to God!

The Lord's Prayer

Divine One, breath of all blessings, vibration of all creation.

Let your name be honored.

May your rule of justice be present with us at all times so that we seek justice and peace for all people of the world.

Your yearning pervades all souls, and manner of thought, being, and nature, just as your boundless creation is beyond comprehension.

Enlighten us with the awareness that in your wisdom you have endowed us with sufficient resources to provide for our needs and to respond to the needs of the world around us.

Take away our sins and mistakes of the past—empty us—and let us forgive the people that have hurt us, and not repay those who have hurt us. Here, infinitesimally, accept.

Show us the way to leave our basest selves behind. Take us along a path that is worthy of You, and of us as Your creatures/creation, And lift us up to the best we can be.

You are the source of all light and love that exists and when we embrace you as the eternal source of all our supply, we can serve as channels for your love to manifest in every season and cycle that creates and sustains our universe. You create the spark of the divine within each one of us that becomes our creative potential, and we can offer that majesty to the world as a way of honoring you, and expanding the presence of your love and light into every moment of time.



**Friends,
Happy New Year!**

There's been a little change in the youth group schedule for this month from what was sent out back in September. Instead of having a Middle School Tubing trip and a High School Skiing trip we'll just be having one combined Tubing trip on January 8th. We will be leaving from St. Paul's at 1:30 and tubing until 4:00, returning to St. Paul's around 4:30, enjoying some pizza and hot chocolate and be ready to be picked up around 5. If you are interested in coming I need to know by Wednesday the 4th so I can arrange for rides. The Middle School Youth will also meet for a movie night and dinner on Sunday the 22nd from 5-7; the High School youth will meet on Sunday the 29th from 5-6.

Both the Middle and High School Youth will continue to meet on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-7:00 where we will share evening prayer, dinner, and some time to just relax with each other. We will not be meeting on the third Wednesday of the month however, which is 1/18.

In February, on the 4th, the Missioners will be making pizzas to sell as a fundraiser for our upcoming trip to Meeting Ground, a homeless community in Northern Maryland. They'll be ready for Super Bowl Sunday, or to freeze and eat later.

Also in February we'll be having our annual variety show. If you've got a talent you'd like to share with the parish I encourage you to sign up to perform. Be in touch with me if you'd like more information on that.

- 1/8- Tubing at Yawgoog 1:30-5:00
- 1/22- Middle School Movie Night 5-7
- 1/29- High School Youth Group 5-6
- 2/4- Mission Trip Pizza Making
- 2/12- Variety Show

Yours in Christ,
Patrick+



A message from the Annual Pledge Team...

The idea of a New Year's resolution, while somewhat cliché, represents a desire that we all have to begin again, to be allowed a fresh start. At this time of year I find myself considering the word *renewal*. It is a word full of promise and it takes on even greater meaning in light of Christ's life and message. He comes to us each year as a newborn, and while we know the script of his life, the celebration of his birth invites us to enter into a relationship with him anew. The year ahead is uncertain. It will most likely contain joys and sorrows, laughter and challenges, but Christ promises that he will walk the path with us. How will we choose to renew our relationship with him?

As a faith community, we also use this time of year to renew our commitments. Together we decide where we would like to put our funds and energy. How do we best express Christ's love through our work and time together? As we plan for the New Year and the allocation of our resources, it is important that we know your commitment so that we, as a parish, can make ours.

To those who have made a pledge, sincere thanks. If not, can we count on you to do so in the month of January? As the Finance Team prepares to submit the 2012 budget to the Vestry, it is crucial to know what our available funds might be, most especially as we get ready to call a new Rector and continue to support our Assistant, Patrick Greene. May the New Year find us renewed in the loving Spirit of Christ.

Blessings,

Tabitha Jorgensen on behalf of the Annual Pledge Team



**From the Director of Music,
Organist, and Choirmaster**

Thanks to all who participated in the Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols. This was a great event for the people of St. Paul's to share together and reach out to the community. Thank you to our gifted readers: Riley Cavaleri, youth chorister; Betty-Ann Taylor, Coordinator of Greeters; Katherine Bellows, Junior Warden, The Rev. Deacon Patrick J. Greene, Assistant to the Rector, and The Rev. W. David Dobbins, Interim Rector. The hospitality team outdid themselves again with a splendid array of treats! The very talented choir alum Marc Donnelly returned to St. Paul's as a guest soloist for Gibbon's "This is the record of John," and Carter's "Angelus ad Virginum." We were also blessed to have the very gifted Korine Barlas choreograph and dance to the anthem "Angelus ad Virginum." Mr. Jesse-Ray Leich worked his magic on various percussion instruments for this event and also Christmas Eve. Kudos to St. Paul's instrumentalists who gave of their time and talents during the Advent season: Pat Petersen, viola and violin and the quartet who accompanied the Mozart Mass Christmas eve; Richard Whaley, trombone; and Samantha Sutton, clarinet. Thank you Joe and Bonnie Smith, Buddy Cavaleri, Kevin O'Connor and the other musicians who led music for the Christmas pageant and Christmas Day. A big thank you also to Gail Cyr for designing the beautiful posters announcing our Advent and Christmas music programs. Bravissimo to the dedicated members of St. Paul's Parish Choir for continually giving of their time, talents, and service: Ellen Abell, David Brown, Sophie Brown, Sarah Cavaleri, Walter Burrows, Tina Butler, Susan Cerullo, Jill Clement, Gail Cyr, Camilla de Rochambeau, Rozanne Fuller, Marianne Goodrich, Mary B. Hall, Diane Hoffman, Norman Poulin, Eleanor Ricci, Nancy Shanahan, Diane Slader, June Spink, Tom Spink, and Dora Wunner. December is especially busy for our choir librarian and publicity chair Tina Butler and our hospitality chair Eleanor Ricci. Thank you for your generosity in spirit and action. We appreciate you!!

Bravo to Youth Choir members: Riley Cavaleri, Zacharey Champlin, Pauline Chang, Sophia Chang, Lauren Greiner, Sydney Greiner, Ben Haberman, Sophia Moretti, Sian Morgan, and Kristine Szrom. These choristers will be participating in the annual RSCM youth choir Evensong at St. Michael's Church, Bristol, Sunday April 29 at 5 p.m. We will join forces with choristers from St. Michael's and the other RI RSCM choirs for a midwinter rehearsal Saturday January 21, 1-3 pm. to begin preparations. Thank you choir parents for your dedication and commitment to your chorister's participation in the St. Paul's choral program. They are learning invaluable skills of teamwork, discipline, commitment, all while learning to read music and bringing us awestruck moments of beauty at St. Paul's. Choral Intern Bridget Nixon has been an incredible boost to the music program of St. Paul's. I know the youth and I enjoy working with her immensely! Please see her or me to have your 3rd grader or older participate in this great program.

I am grateful to St. Paul's Parish and leadership for providing the opportunity for me to take a mini-sabbatical in January. I plan to use the sabbatical to write program notes for a CD I recorded of music of Viennese composer Anton Heiller, learn new repertoire, and travel. The very able Laura Brion will take over the reins of organist/choirmaster during my absence.

Everyone is invited to St. Paul's annual Epiphany Evensong January 8 at 7pm at St. Paul's Church. The Parish Choir will offer music of Josef Rheinberger and Thomas Morley. Following Evensong, the hospitality team will host a reception, which promises to be splendid!

Thank you to the Parish of St. Paul's for your pledges and gifts which make the music ministry at St. Paul's possible!

A peace-filled and blessed New Year to all!

Mark

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.



Years ago, the Parish was often visited by the “Church Mouse”. A Sunday school teacher once remarked on exactly what this mouse would see around the Church at Christmas time. That thought has stayed with me for years. Just what would that mouse see when he walked around the buildings and grounds, and would God be happy?

God’s greatest commandment is to love. Love ourselves, our enemies, our neighbors. Love is bursting around St. Paul’s. If the mouse were to see the dedication of Deb as she prepares for the holiday season with all her work with the bulletins, letters, and ...he would see love. Watching Bill prepare the buildings, he would see love. The clergy...love. Listening to the choirs prepare for all the services....love. It is shown by the altar guild as it decorates and prepares for services. Musicians, teachers, vestry all show love. Love is everywhere, and that just touches on those who are involved with St. Paul’s. The mouse still has to head across the street to see the Parish House.

The little church mouse would be worn out scurrying about to see all that goes on. Love is at coffee hour. It’s in the classes. It’s shown in the faces of the children as they prepare for the pageant. It’s shown in the hard work when the children make Christmas cards to be included with the baskets. Overwhelming love is shown by the many people who put together and deliver the Christmas baskets. Downstairs, the mouse can see the love that the nursery school brings to St. Paul’s. They help with the collection of pajamas, the ingathering of food, and sing beautifully to our seniors. Everywhere in the Parish House, people take the time to share of themselves, whether it is teaching a class, or buying a warm set of pajamas. It’s even shown in the many groups that use the facilities and help each other overcome their addictions. The kindness would warm the mouse as he headed over to report his findings.

After all that running around, the mouse would slowly walk up to the congregation. People would have to listen closely, and some may fidget as the mouse

catches his breath. Everyone waits to hear his evaluation. Quietly, one word would escape and the answer would be yes. St. Paul’s is about love and caring for others. All are welcome and He would be pleased.

Important Sunday School Dates

Community Worship (no Sunday school) on Christmas Day, and New Years Day. Enjoy worshipping together as a family.

January 8, 15, 22, 29 Regular Sunday school (RCS)

January 22 Children’s Eucharist in the Parish Hall during regular SS time

February 5 RCS
Lorí

Thank you

The “Jammie Grammie” would like to thank St. Paul’s Church for their support of the children in the Pawcatuck and Washington County areas. The generous people of our church collected 90 pairs of pajamas to help children in need. This program was a great success and we hope to be able to participate in this project in the future. Thank you.

CALLING ALL ACTS!

SAVE THE DATE!

"*St. Paul's Follies 2012*" will take place on Sunday Afternoon February 12th at 3:30 PM in the Parish Hall. Calling intrepid performers of all ages to consider joining the fun of participating in this now annual event.

Fun for the whole family!! Proceeds to benefit St. Paul's Youth Mission Trip.

Anyone interested please call or email:

Tina Butler 294-2711 Tina Butler@verizon.net

Camilla de Rochambeau 294-3061

Caderochoambeau@cox.net

Thanks and Peace

Tina



News

St. Paul's "Weekday" Nursery School

Last month I spoke about the R.I. Early Learning Standards, we at St. Paul's Nursery School follow. I also spoke about the importance of Play and that play is the first goal in each of the eight domains in the RIELS. Since play is such an important component in the learning process, I want to elaborate on play this month.

Play Is Learning: "Young children learn best by doing" (National Association for the Education of Young Children). Unlike adults who are able to learn from memorizing facts, very young children learn about the world around them by using their senses – by seeing, touching, tasting, smelling and hearing. Preschool children discover for themselves how things work by experimenting, using their imaginations and their bodies, as well as by interacting with others. Through play children acquire important mental, physical, and social skills which prepare them for later learning. Children learn through: Physical Play, Pretend Play, Art, Music, Books, Blocks, Puzzles and Toys -- Playing is fun!

Speaking of fun, I would like to thank the St. Paul's Church Seniors for inviting us to sing at their Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 8th. The children truly enjoyed singing and making ornaments for their Christmas tree. Thank you for the delicious goodie bags that were given to each child.

I would like to thank all who participated in our annual basket raffle, the nursery school parents, who donated items for the baskets and the many people who purchased tickets. It was a great success. A special thank you goes to Heather Lee and Elisabeth Hallene for wrapping the baskets for us and making them so attractive. And the winners are: Lois Bennett, Italian Basket; Dan Lamond, Chocolate Basket; Tina Browning, Pamper Yourself Basket; Lisa Hunter, Garden Basket; Caroline Rumowicz, Christmas/Holiday Basket; Laurie Campfield, Arts & Crafts Basket; Karen Lu Lapolice, D.J. Certificate.

I would also like to thank our wonderful parents at St. Paul's "Weekday" Nursery School for donating the numerous pairs of pajamas for the "Cool Kid's Need P.J.'s" drive and for all the donations of food for the St. Paul's Episcopal Church's Christmas Baskets. You are teaching your children valuable lessons through your examples of kindness and generosity.

We continue to take registrations for next year's preschool classes 2012-2013. If you know of a 3 or 4 year old who is ready for preschool, have them give us a call (295-7320).

Blessings,
Linda

D.R.E.A.M. Fund Success

Since April 2011, the D.R.E.A.M. fund (Dominican Republic Educational Assistance Mission) has been receiving donations to support students at the Episcopal School Mount of Transfiguration in Pedregal, Dominican Republic. The fund had a very successful first year and has received sufficient donations to support all 14 students that are eligible for scholarships this school year. The founder and director, Rachel Shippee, would like to thank St. Paul's for their wonderful support thus far with her endeavor and is excited to continue updating the congregation with its success. Donors have been sent letters of gratitude and information on one of the students DREAM is supporting. If you would like to receive this information as well, please contact Rachel Shippee at rshippee@elon.edu.

Donations are still needed to continue educational support for these children for the 2012/13 school year and beyond. If you are interested in supporting D.R.E.A.M, checks can be made out to St. Paul's Church with "DREAM" in the memo line. For more information, email Rachel Shippee at rshippee@elon.edu for details or a brochure.