

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 soul lover

Prolific hymn writer Charles Wesley wrote the moving song "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" in 1739. According to one story, Wesley penned the lyrics after surviving a raging storm at sea. A frightened bird apparently flew into Wesley's window during the uproar, seeking safety in the folds of Wesley's coat.

The first stanza is as follows:

Jesus, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high,
Hide me, O my Savior,
hide, till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide;
O receive my soul at last.

We, too, can take refuge in our Savior during life's storms, knowing we have a safe haven and a sure destination.

Rector's Reflections

The Christian Formation Team met. We do that about once each quarter, as we do with most of the Teams, which report to the vestry. Anyway, as I was saying, the members of the Christian Formation Team met a week or so ago, and one of the members of the team, Pete Bergwall, asked a question. He asked, "What are the appropriate protocols for parishioners to offer suggestions?" And once we talked it over, he added, "It would be a real help if you (that would be me) could write a newsletter article about that some time, because I don't think that everyone understands the process."

So here goes. The vestry delegates its work to more than eight different teams. The teams include Christian Action, Church Relations, Christian Formation, Liturgy, Communications, Fellowship, Nursery School, and Stewardship. Each team is made up of representatives of several task forces, point people or staff members, who bring their projects, work, or programs to the team for review and coordination. Let's take the Liturgy Team as an example. The Liturgy Team is composed of one representative from each of its various task forces including Acolytes, Altar Guild, Choir and Music, Ushers, Greeters, Chalice Bearers, Readers, and Healing Ministers. We meet quarterly to review the various services, coordinate, and to discuss possibilities. The minutes from those meetings are e-mailed to the vestry, and from time to time the vestry may be asked to discuss new ideas or requests for special funding.

In any organization, perhaps especially a church, it's important for members to communicate their ideas and suggestions in an orderly fashion or else communication can fail or chaos can ensue. Just pass ideas on through the appropriate task force by one of the members of the team that has to do with the area it impacts. So, if anyone has any thoughts about services speak with a member of the Liturgy Team. Suggestions about the parish facilities, pledging, volunteer recruitment and training, finance and budget, Episcopal Charities,

endowments and the like go to the Stewardship Team. Matters having to do with the Old Narragansett Church and ecumenical relations go to Church Relations. Suggestions for the Nursery School go to the Nursery School Team. Ideas for Sunday school, youth ministries, adult education, Wednesday Night Live, Retreats, etc. go to Christian Formation. Suggestions for outreach ministries – for financial support or hands-on opportunities- go to Christian Action. Ideas about fellowship activities or events and Wickford Art Festival go to Fellowship. Suggestions concerning communications – the Communicant, our website, bulletin inserts, the wider press, etc. go to Communications. The vestry representatives for those teams are as follows: Stewardship – John Leite; Communications – Ann Waring; Liturgy -- Elizabeth Grout; Nursery School – Casey Gartland; Fellowship – Don Hagist; Christian Formation -- Katherine Bellows; Church Relations – Scott Tillotson; and Christian Action – Richard Lewis. Contact Bill Healey or Elaine Lemieux about emergencies having to do with property. Feel free to contact them with ideas pertaining to those areas of our shared life.

From time to time we also provide opportunities to glean parishioners' visions, dreams and ideas in other ways. That was the purpose of the Dream Team – to reach out for people's constructive suggestions for our life together as a Christian community. Thanks to Tina Butler, Alicia Cranston, Jeff Manickas, and Bess Wilson for their good work in organizing all the efforts of the Dream team. We'll be hearing more about the results of their work later.

It almost goes without saying that another and far easier way to let your thoughts be known is to contact any of the members of the staff. Fred, Debbie, Lori, Trish Bill, Mark, Linda and I meet every week, and we always consider everyone's suggestions. So, by all means let us know what you think. We can't promise that suggestions will be implemented, but we can promise that they be seriously and prayerfully considered.

Jesus said, "I am the vine and you are the branches." St. Paul wrote, "You are the body of Christ and individually members of it." The point of both is that we are rooted in Christ and we all have positive roles to play according to our gifts – all to produce the fruit of God's love and grace. Each part of the body plays its part so as to be well coordinated and functioning properly. Our hope is that the way we structure our teamwork and lines of communication and decision-making allows us to fully seek and serve God.

Affectionately in Christ,

Phil



Summer Service Schedule Begins June 13

On the weekend of **June 13** our summer service schedule will begin. This means that the **Saturday 5:15 Eucharist on June 13th**, though it will take place at the same time, will move to the Old Narragansett Church. Our schedule of Sunday services will change on **Sunday, June 14th**, as follows:

7:15 am – Holy Eucharist,
Rite 1, in **St. Paul's Church**

9:30 am – Holy Eucharist,
Rite 2, in **Old Narragansett Church**

This schedule will extend through Labor Day weekend – September 6th.

Save the Dates: Wickford Art Festival

This year the **Wickford Art Festival** takes place **Friday, July 10, through Sunday, July 12**. As usual St. Paul's will participate by offering food and refreshments – Lobster rolls, clam cakes, chowder, hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken salad sandwiches, and baked goods as well as beverages. Proceeds will benefit the youth scholarship program, which provides scholarships to help defray the costs of higher education. We need your help on those dates (sign up in the narthex at church). We also need help with set up on Thursday, July 9, from 6 to 7:30 pm, and clean up on Monday, July 13 from 9 am to noon. Contact Leslie Kershaw (295-8171) for further information. Come be part of the fun and fellowship!

Sunday School Teachers Dinner

Our annual Sunday school teachers' appreciation dinner takes place on Sunday, May 31st at 6:30 pm at 7 Moons.

We are so very grateful for all the time and effort that each of the volunteer teachers has given throughout this past year!



Staff Planning Day

The parish staff will devote Wednesday, June 3rd to planning the programs and events for next year. Please pray for God to inspire and guide us during our planning time.

Sabbatical

As I mentioned last year at this time God came up with the idea of sabbaticals.

Doesn't the Book of Genesis say that God rested on the seventh day, and that God also made one day of the week a Sabbath for people as well? That's where the word comes from – Sabbath – a sacred time for rest. I suppose that's why the Church as whole takes sabbaticals so seriously. Every diocese has a requirement, built into every clergy contract, that after a certain number of years the priest must take a sabbatical of three or four months. In the Diocese of Rhode Island it's three months after four years of service. Since we were short staffed a year ago the vestry and I thought that it was ill advised for me to take three months off on top of vacation time. So we thought that one month would do. I was absolutely exhausted and really needed the rest. Now that Fred is with us I plan to take another month of sabbatical this summer. I will be away for sabbatical during June and for vacation during July. Fr. Fred will be here for pastoral and sacramental services and other needs during that time. I'll return in August at which point Fr. Fred will be away – taking some of his vacation time.

Phil



Wednesday Night Live

Although it is June, it is not too early to think about WNL, beginning again on September 23. I am going to be the chairperson again, following in Susie Leahy's footsteps, and am looking for volunteers to be on the Food Team each week. This rotates, so you only need to sign up for one week.

Gregg's will again be doing the main course, while the Team sets up, provides bread, salad, and dessert (when needed) and cleans up. It will be very helpful to have volunteers come forward now, so that I can plan the schedule. Feel free to call (294-2672) and leave a message with your name and number, or see me at church on a Saturday night. I look forward to hearing from you.

Marie Noble

NK Food Pantry

Summer is fast approaching which means—kids out of school! This is an especially important time to remember the Food Pantry. With no breakfasts/lunches at school, families will need extra food for those active, hungry kids. Bonnie Smith, director of the Food Pantry offers the following suggestions: healthy snacks, breakfast items, easy lunch fixings, gift cards for milk (in \$5.00 denominations). Feel free to donate a gift of volunteer time—contact Bonnie at 294-7608. Baskets for donations are in the Church narthex and at the ONC.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



Music Notes

Dr. Mark Steinbach is enjoying a well-earned 6 week sabbatical. He is working on a CD and a book and will be back with us in June. We send him our prayers for rest and re-creation! In his absence we are blessed with the able and gracious Diana Norton-Jackson –thank you Diana.



Youth News

As always I wish to thank all the parents and chaperones who continually supported the Youth Ministry programs and events throughout this past year. I truly appreciate all the help that you have given, and I encourage all parents, to join in at any time! Working with youth of all ages is a wonderful blessing and always challenging. All of us want our Youth Group programs to be the best and the most spiritually inspiring that they can be. We always try to be receptive to new ideas. By all means let me know whenever you have one. With God's help we will continue to grow in our ministries to the youth of St. Paul's.

Middle School Youth (MSY): The MSY met on Sunday, May 3rd, in the Parish Hall for frisbee, popcorn and devotions. There were only a few of us there, but we had lots of fun and some important discussion about anger. We have tentative plans for a beach party & picnic on Saturday, August 29th, at the town Beach in Wickford. I'll update you when we are able to make our final plans. Meanwhile I hope and pray that everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer.

ECC: Throughout the summer the Diocese of Rhode Island offers a variety of weeklong camps for teens of various ages. If you are interested in one of them it is not too late to sign up. Contact ECC directly at **568-4055**.

June 28 – July 4: Music and Creative Arts Camp for grades 8 – 12 (ages 13-17) \$345

July 5 – 10: Teen Camp for grades 7 – 9 (ages 12-14) \$335

July 12 – 17: Older Boys Camp for grades 5 & 6 (ages 10 – 11) \$340

July 19 – 25: Older Girls Camp for grades 5 & 6 (ages 10 – 11) \$340

July 26 – August 1: Musical Theatre Week for grades 8 – 12 (ages 13 – 17) \$345

August 9 – 14: Summer's End for grades 7 – 12 (ages 12 – 17) \$335

High School Youth (HSY): What can I say about our High School teens? They are an exceptional group of young men and women! You already know about the mission to the Dominican Republic and the powerful affect that mission has had on our teens and the people of Pedregal, which is the barrio surrounding Camp Transfiguration. But I am so proud of all our missionaries, not only for the work they did there and for the spiritual friendships they forged there, but also for how courageous they were in the DR and here. Jessica Walsh's video presentation to the congregation was truly heart touching. As Jeff Manickas said, you could see how powerfully parishioners of all ages were struck by the video. It made some of the experiences we had and the people we worked with come alive for the parish. I am proud of the way the teen missionaries spoke with the vestry, at the forum and then in church on Youth Sunday. Thank you Jess, Grace, Allie, Alexis, Dylan, Shelby, Ship-Ship, Rachel, Jackie, Emily, Kaitlyn, and Paul – for your commitment, your strength, your faith, and most of all your love! All of you have blossomed into real Christian leaders. We couldn't have done it without the tireless leadership and support of our mission chaperones, of course. Thank you Tina Butler, Jerome Simmons, and, of course, Father Phil. You were great! I want to express appreciation to one more group – the parents of the missionaries. Thank you for all your support, your follow through, and especially your trust, for entrusting your youths into our care!

Scholarships: Several of the young men and women from our HSY group will be graduating and continuing their education. Seven in all have applied for scholarships from St. Paul's Church. Thanks to the hard work and the success of St. Paul's participation in last year's Wickford Art Festival each of those applicants will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for their higher education. The scholarship recipients include: Tom Briggs, Emily Burton, Melanie Donnelly, Allie Elliot, Ellie Gettman, Kaitlyn Lamb, and Grace Palmer. We are so proud of each one of you and we will miss you, but we are so happy to help in supporting your dreams for the future! The scholarships will be awarded during the 10:30 service on Sunday, June 7th.

Calling All Teens for the Wickford Art Festival:

I just mentioned how important the Wickford Art Festival is for raising money for scholarships. We need help for this year. The Art festival will be Friday, July 10th, through Sunday, July 12th. More than 1/3 of the openings for waiters, runners and bussers have already been filled. So please do not wait too long to add your name to the schedule. Each student will receive a meal during their shift and a theatre pass. Donations will be used for youth activities.

That's about all for now. Meanwhile, if you should have any questions, suggestions or ideas, please don't hesitate to contact the youth office (294-4357 x105) or youth@stpaulswickford.org.

~ God's Peace,

Trish

S u n d a y



School News

The Sunday school year ended with a bang on Youth Sunday. What a great way to showcase the amazing youth of St. Paul's. I don't know what was my favorite part of the day. I loved all of it, from the fifth graders performing the parts of the service, guest youth musicians, the recognition of the fifth graders and confirmands to the missionaries giving the sermon. It was such an exciting day to see the strength of the future of our parish. When speaking about the future of our church, we only need to turn to two events that took place during this month. At the Cathedral, we had 19 teenagers decide that they wished to follow Christ and be confirmed in the Church. How exciting. For some, this decision was not easily reached, but they thought long and hard, and decided that this was a decision that they wanted to make. It was their decision, not their parents or friends and we commend them on it. We are so proud of these teens. On Youth Sunday, the church recognized both these teens and the fifth grade Emmaus class. Our fifth graders went through a yearlong program in order to understand the Eucharist and the teachings of the church in a more mature way. We had 13 students take part in the youth Sunday service from this class. Jane and I really enjoyed working with these kids during the year.

The year can't be complete without a huge thank you to the teachers of our Sunday school. Each week they show up with activities, crafts, stories and music to make the Bible come alive for our children. They are a group of amazing, dedicated, and loving individuals. We are truly blessed to have such wonderful people leading our children's education, and I am thrilled to have worked with them throughout the year.

PK/K: Bonnie Smith and her crew helpers Kelli Frye, Linda Kesner, Rini Cutty-George
First: Connie Calabrese, Sindy Hempstead, Alice Szrom
Second: Kelli Gillis, MaryEllen Madsen, Kevin O'Connor
Third: Kathy Kuiper, Sarah LeBlanc, Sandra Tierney
Fourth: Susie Leahy, Sheryl MacDougall-Fusco
Fifth: Lori Lamb, Jane Winter
Middle School: Beth and Pete Bergwall, Jayne McBride
Confirmation: Laurie DeRuosi, Jean Whatmough

I am pleased to say that most of these teachers have agreed to return to teach again next year. What a wonderful thing for St. Paul's. If you are interested in joining our merry band, we have openings in the second and fourth grades. We try to have three teachers per grade to allow teachers time to attend services or to attend to personal matters. New teachers are always paired with more experienced teachers; we provide curriculum and lots of support. No experience is necessary, just a love of children and the willingness to teach them about God. If you are interested, call me at home 294-9908. I know it's an experience I have never regretted since I started 12 years ago. Personally, I've gotten so much spiritually from teaching and from being with these children; they are wonderful.

Finally, I would like to thank those people who went the extra mile to help out at the end of the year. Thank you to David Brown, Leslie Kershaw, Beth Bergwall and Jane Winter who helped out with the baking of the bread for the Emmaus class. I couldn't have done it without you. Thank you to Nick Jorgensen and Father Phil for assisting with the rehearsal of the fifth graders for Youth Sunday. The kids did a great job and it was because of your patient teaching. To all the parents of the Emmaus and Confirmation classes who brought food, set up, cut cake, cleaned up, etc. I owe you a big thank you, especially to Pam

Blodgett for coordinating the whole reception at 10:30 am, and Leslie Kershaw for doing whatever needed to be done at 8:30am. It was these youths' special day and everyone really helped make it a day they will remember. Thank you. Last but definitely not least, I would like to thank the staff of St. Paul's for all their support during the year. I couldn't do this without each and everyone one of you. You are the best. Many thanks, and I look forward to working with all these children during the upcoming year.

Vacation Bible School will be held at Camp Canonicus, July 27-31, 9-2:30 pm. Cost is \$35 per camper; all children who have completed K through 8th grade are invited to attend. This is a multi-denominational camp that includes Bible stories, music, arts and crafts, swimming, nature, and lots of fun and games. Registration forms are available in the church office and need to be returned no later than June 30th. Any questions please call Lori Lamb at home 294-9908 or email dgl4lal@aol.com

Lori

Christian Action

At the May Vestry meeting the following requests for donations were approved:

- \$500 - South Providence Neighborhood Ministries
- \$500 - American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

The Vestry thanks all parishioners who are doing such a good job keeping up with pledges. God's work through St. Paul's depends on you!

St Paul's "Weekday" Nursery School

News:

Three Year Old Class

News:

During the
month of

May our 3's enjoyed a visit from the Audubon Society called "The Salamander Room". This fit in well with our unit on the ocean and creatures that live in the water. The children made a beach collage, sparkly fish and built a sand castle. For Mothers Day we invited our mothers to a tea and the children entertained them with special songs, goodies, a card and a plant that they grew in our classrooms. Our shape for May was the diamond and our color was purple. This school year comes to an end but the children look forward to moving up to the 4 year old classes in September.

Four Year Old Class News: It's hard to believe that our school year is over. It has been a busy but fun year. We started the month of May with a special May Day breakfast for the children. The children worked on many special Mother's and Father's Day projects. Some of the field trips we enjoyed this month were; the school bus ride, walking to the fish market and the visit to the library. We ended the month with a unit on the ocean and brought water and sand into our classrooms. We also had a special fire safety drill at the end of the year. It was fun going up the ladders in our rooms and out the windows. We had a sing along and class party on the last day.



Nursery School
News

Our 4's have outgrown our program and will move on to Kindergarten in the Fall. While it is sad to see them leave, we are confident that they are well prepared to meet the challenges they will encounter in September.

To all our families, thank you for all your help and support both inside and outside the classrooms. Your participation was greatly appreciated. Thank you for sharing your children with us, we truly enjoyed them.

God Bless,
Linda



Ushers needed at ONC

I hope this finds you well and able to appreciate all your blessings. We begin our summer 9:30am services at the Old Narragansett Church on Sunday June 14th. We're making the usher schedule and looking for those that would like an opportunity to serve our church as ushers at the Old Narragansett Church this summer. This opportunity to serve can be tailored to your schedule and desires, it comes with instruction if you'll let me know that is your wish.

If interested, or just have questions, please contact:

Bill Chatto billandclaire1@cox.net 401
885-4976

or

Rex Brewer brewer_rex@hotmail.com 401
295-7063

Rex