

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.

Symbols for the Trinity

The liturgical calendar calls [the Sunday after Pentecost] "Trinity Sunday" - a day set aside to "celebrate" the unique triune character of our God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Symbols for the Trinity include a circle inscribed within an equilateral triangle. Actually, during the first eight centuries of Christian art, the image of the triangle for the Trinity was not widespread - although on one of the gravestones in the catacombs there is a triangle in which the monogram of the name of Christ was placed.

The three persons were often represented in art, but they were shown separately. The first time they seem to have been placed together was in the fourth century, and that representation consisted of "the Hand, the Lamb and the Dove," which is said no longer to exist.



From the Interim Rector

Dear Friends,

I hope you are finding these great 50 days of Easter—which will culminate in Pentecost—rich with joy. I am so very grateful to all who participated in making Holy Week and Easter so beautiful and meaningful. Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who worked so many hours to allow us all to focus on the liturgy and the presence of God within it.

It was at the first Pentecost that the church was filled with the Holy Spirit and equipped to spread the good news of the resurrection throughout the world. The Mission Task Force of the Diocese of Rhode Island is surveying the parishes of the Diocese to discover “what hungers” each parish feels most called to feed. Taking this question to the Vestry at their meeting on May 17th, we quickly identified the following commitments at St. Paul’s that are associated with meeting the hunger of those in our community, and the hunger of those we are called to serve:

1. More than 100 Christmas baskets are assembled and distributed to area families of need each year
2. Participation in the North Kingstown Food pantry.
3. Participation in the Ecumenical Lenten Soup and Spirit luncheons
4. The Saturday and Sunday Eucharists that feed folks spiritually every weekend.
5. The Community garden (literally growing food on plots purchased by parishioners) with a tithe to the community
6. The food and companionship offered through the senior luncheons
7. The Lay Eucharistic Visitors- feeding the hunger of the home bound for communion and companionship
8. 3% of annual pledge income flows through the discretionary account to the "Faith Community Fund" administered by the town of North Kingstown that supports those in need of food, medical care and shelter

9. Christian Action gives away 3% of pledge dollars to area, national and international relief agencies
10. Youth Mission trips to New Orleans and the Dominican Republic
11. Books groups and study groups feed our hunger to know more about living as people of faith
12. Sunday School feeds our children and teaches them about “loving our neighbors as ourselves” with school fundraising initiatives (e.g., Pennies for Peace)
13. The St. Paul's Nursery school: for over 50 years nurturing children and feeding their faith.
14. We provide Alcoholics Anonymous with a place to meet and to nourish sobriety.

I invite you to uphold these ministries in your prayers, and to support them in any way you are able. I encourage you to come and celebrate our continuing ministry and mission on Pentecost—June 12th—and to be with us as we take the next step in calling a new rector to St. Paul’s by commissioning the Search Committee.

Alleluia, Christ is Risen

The Lord has risen indeed, Alleluia.

David+



ONC Call For Docents

The docents of the Old Narragansett Church would welcome some new members. If you are interested in history and meeting people, please consider becoming a docent. Docents serve when the Church is open in July and August, Thursdays through Mondays from 11AM to 4PM. It is a pleasure to greet visitors from around the world and show them our 300 year old hidden treasure. To learn more or sign up, please call Helen Reid at 294-4618.

*From the
Assistant Rector*



Friends,
Things with the Youth Group have been a little slow since I returned from Israel but I hope they'll start to pick up now that we're past the Easter rush.

I'm hoping to restart the monthly meetings for High

School, have a couple fun events, and continue with the weekly Wednesday Meetings for everyone.

On June 19 we'll begin the High School Monthly Meetings. We'll meet at 5:00 in the Guild Room (the one with the couches), and we'll gather for an hour where we will have a discussion and then we'll do something fun.

This summer we'll be going to play Laser Tag, the specific details (times and costs) will be coming out soon, but we'll be playing on July 23 at Lazer Gate in Fall River. If there are any adults who would like to join us (and hopefully drive!) that would be great, please get in touch with me at 294-4357 x105 or assistant@stpaulswickford.org. This will be for both Middle and High School Youth.

I'm also looking into a trip to McCoy Stadium for a Pawsox game, having a cookout on the Greene Way, having a few movie nights in the Parish Hall (maybe even outside), and maybe heading out to the beach. If there is anything else you would like to do, please be in touch and we'll try and make it happen.

For anyone who hasn't been or heard about them, on Wednesday Nights I gather with any youth (entering sixth grade this fall through high school) and we have a quick service of evening prayer followed by time to just relax and hang out together. I do not plan anything for this time, but leave it open for all to have some time together, and then we end with dinner. The meetings run from 5:30-7:00 on Wednesday nights and any youth in the parish and their friends are welcome to join us. We will meet every Wednesday of the month except for the last one, June 29. In July we won't be meeting on the first Wednesday, July 6.

On Wednesday June 15 I invite anyone who might be interested in taking part in next year's Mission Trip (high school youth and adults) to come and begin discussing

what we might do, and how we'll do it. We will meet at 7:00pm in the Belden Room.

If there are any adults in the parish who are interested in helping out with the Youth Group we can always use your help, whether it be driving to events, hanging out with us when we meet up, or preparing a meal for a Wednesday Night. If you're interested in any way, please be in touch with me.

Yours in Christ,

Patrick+

Art Festival Time Again

The Art Festival Weekend is around the corner--July 8-10. We are looking for people interested in helping with planning and coordination. Come join a hard-working fun group. The first meeting was May 23, but it's not too late to join us. The next two meetings are Monday nights 7-8 PM at the Church June 13 and June 27. We welcome new ideas and don't forget to ask the kids if they want to get in on the fun. The sign-up sheets are in the back of the church --sign early to get your favorite spot. Feel free to call Leslie Kershaw with any questions- 295-8171.

Christian Action Notes

This month, we allocated \$1000 to the Red Cross with the designation that it be directed to tornado and flood relief efforts in the South. Recently, we have donated significant funds to international relief efforts; however our goal is to distribute our support evenly to local, domestic and international concerns.

In addition, this month we will send \$1000 to the St Elizabeth's Community chaplaincy program. This is the final installment of 3 years of bridge funds that support a staff and funding transition period. Peter Spencer is involved in the program which benefits residents, their families and staff.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Godley



From the Director of Music, Organist and Choirmaster :

100 % Chance of Rain!!!

When Rozanne Fuller, The Director of St. Paul's Children's Choir, was speaking with me last fall about planning to present the Musical "100% Chance of Rain," we didn't know that May would turn out to be one of the rainiest months on record. It's not quite what Noah experienced, but a very dramatic set-up nonetheless. At this writing the musical has yet to take place, but I am sure it will be a memorable performance for all. Kudos to Rozanne and Maria Day Hyde, Director of St. Paul's Youth Choir, all of the children involved in the production, the prop builders and costume designers! I know this has been a long-time dream of Rozanne's and I thank her both for her vision and her hutzpa in making it happen.

The choirs take a break in the summer from their weekly rehearsal schedules. Please join us for worship in The Old Narragansett Church beginning Sunday June 15. If you would like to try out singing with the choir, come upstairs where we lead service music and hymns.

Official "choir season" begins immediately following Labor Day. High -schoolers looking for community service should be aware that singing in St. Paul's Parish Choir can fulfill that requirement. It is also a great way to make new friends and learn the great music of the Church. Auditions for all of the choirs will take place the first week of September.

I will be away playing a concert and teaching in Bolzano, Italy in June and performing at the National Organ Historical Society Convention in Washington D.C. July 1.

Peace, *Mark*

Notes from the Healthy Church Team

As a part of the ongoing effort to understand congregational dynamics the team has been reading several books. Foremost in the reading has been *Healthy Congregations*, by Peter Steinke. We offer some guidelines from this reading to help each person in the congregation to participate in the process of developing healthy patterns that build up the Body of Christ, of which we are all members. It is our desire to embrace our Christian heritage by practicing gratitude, forgiveness and compassion, individually and communally, as we continue to live into a healthy and vibrant community of faith.

Here are four core issues that "all congregations should be working with"

- What is our mission and how to achieve it
- What are our strengths and resources and how do we implement them...
- How do we manage anxiety and conflict
- How to work towards wholeness and maintain it

We can be different and yet be one, for unity does not require conformity. Let us learn to engage in a dialogue where differences can be voiced, knowing that we can question in a fashion that invites the opportunity see more than just our perspective. At the same time we need to find places where we can interact and cooperate. Our strength as a Parish family lies in our differing gifts. We have been given the gift of grace and we need to be conduits of grace for others.

We invite the practices of transparency, comfort in sharing and above all, welcoming all who enter our open doors to a church community that loves well as Christ wants us to do in His name. Let us shepherd those who enter our doors by extending our hearts and hands.

"How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity." Psalm 133:1

Healthy Church Team

(Mimi Dyer, Thomasine Manickas, Peggy Todd, Nancy Shore, Susan Stiles, Marsha Welch)



People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth; anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. And he took the children in his arms, and put his hands on them and blessed them." Mark 10:13-16

What do you think Jesus would think of our Youth Sunday service? Personally, I think he would be thrilled. The youth participated in most aspects of the service from instrumentalists to readers and ushers; some of the teen missionaries even shared their message during the sermon. The fifth graders spent the time to write out their own prayers. The children and teens were welcomed with open arms. They learned what it means to take an active part in a service, but most importantly, they taught us exactly how to be a true Christian.

Jesus said we need to be like a little child to enter the kingdom of God- complete trust and openness to Him. We saw that in the faces of the little ones, who peered up, as they received communion. We felt it, as we saw the joy on the faces of the fifth graders, as they participated in the service. Often they whispered, "This is great, can we do this again?" Isn't this what Jesus was looking for- the joy and excitement about sharing his message? Youth Sunday is a wonderful celebration of the children of our parish. Yes, there is a little chaos that goes with it; mistakes do happen. Embrace the service; see the joy in being able to worship together. That's what Jesus was saying, and it is a lesson we all can learn. I do believe Jesus was smiling down at St. Paul's, as he watched us celebrate our youth.

Congratulations to Taryn Alexander, Korine Barlas, Samantha Burton, John de Rochambeau, Daniel Donnelly, Haleigh Freeburg, Katarina Gillis, Jesse-Ray Leich, Hayden Lyle, Sean Maymon, David Mobley, Courtney Mortin, Jason Mota, Rachel Nutt, Leah Roch, Samantha Sutton, Kolby Turner, and Stephen Winter who received their sacrament of Confirmation on May 14th. Thank you to Laurie DeRuosi and Jean Whatmough for guiding these eighteen teens on this journey to make this important decision in their lives. These confirmands were honored at a reception, following the Youth Sunday service, where they received a gift from the parish and their certificate of

confirmation. For those students who were unable to attend, the certificates and books are in Fr. Patrick's office and can be picked up during office hours or following services. Twelve fifth graders completed their "Emmaus" class and participated in the service. Congratulations to Sophia Chang, Billy Cross, Elizabeth Fusco, Bryce Gillis, Harrison Green, Chelsea Kuiper, Margaret Landry, Jillyan Mobley, Madison Murdock, Charlotte Roch, Kaitlyn Sutton, and Keegan Turner. Great job, we are so proud of you.

The year cannot be complete without a thank you to all those who helped to make the Sunday school such a success:

- Most importantly, to the wonderful teachers. Your dedication to these children is a shining light in the world. Thank you to Bonnie Smith, Rini Georgekutty, Linda Kesner, Kathy Bellows, Sindy Hempstead, Alice Szrom, Kevin O'Connor, Kelli Gillis, Kathy Kuiper, Sarah LeBlanc, Susie Leahey, Laura Martorelli, Sheryl MacDougall Fusco, Beth and Pete Bergwall, Jayne McBride, Laurie DeRuosi, and Jean Whatmough.
- To all the parents and families for all your support, help with special projects and in the classrooms, snacks and supplies.
- Jane-Marie Winter for guiding the ushers and greeters in rehearsals and during the Youth Sunday service. I couldn't do it without you.
- To all the fifth grade parents who helped in the kitchen with the making of the communion bread. No small undertaking and it was wonderful.
- To all the Emmaus class families for putting together a beautiful reception for all the children of the parish.
- To all the parishioners who filled out the Sunday school survey. I will have the results available in the next *Communicant*; your comments were very helpful in determining the preferences of the parish, in regards to the Sunday school.

- To the staff and clergy for your support, guidance, and assistance throughout the year.
- To all the people who have volunteered to teach next year, I owe you a huge thank you. We had ten positions to fill and we now have most of them filled. Thank you so much. If anyone else would like to assist, please contact me at home, 294-9908. It is a fun and rewarding endeavor.

Important Sunday School Dates

Surf's up! Come join the fun this summer at our multi-denominational Vacation Bible School, August 1-5, 9am -2:30 pm at Camp Canonicus in Exeter. Cost is \$40 per child/week; it is open to all children who have completed Kindergarten through eighth grade. Registrations will be accepted through June 30th; no late registrations will be accepted this year. Please make checks payable to VBS cooperative. Registrations are available in the church office. Any questions, please contact Lori Lamb at 294-9908.

Lori



News

St. Paul's Nursery School

Three year Old Class News:

In the beginning of May, our three's invited their mothers to a Mother's Day Tea. They entertained them with special

songs they learned and presented them with a plant they grew and a special card they made just for their moms. During this month, our three's also talked about the ocean and the many animals that live in the ocean. They walked to the fish market at the end of Main Street to visit some of these ocean creatures and visited the beach at the end of the street to look for shells. Our three's enjoyed raising butterflies from caterpillars and releasing them in our playground. May seemed to fly by and most our three's have turned four and are ready to enter our four year old program in September.

Four Year Old Class News: Our four's began the month of May with a May Day breakfast and invited some of the members of the St. Paul's Senior's Committee to join us. I think the seniors enjoyed the breakfast and the company as much as the children. Our four's worked on some very special Mother's Day and Father's Day projects, finished and reviewed our alphabet unit and Signs of Spring unit. We walked to the library for a special story hour and picked out a book to take home. Like the three's, we ended the month with an Oceans unit and a walk to the town dock and beach at the end of the street. Save the Bay came to give us an in-house presentation on *A House for Hermit Crab*. It was great! Our annual Sing-A-Long took place on the last week of school and our families were invited to attend. This year we enjoyed watching the amazing growth and changes that took place with our children. Similar to our butterflies, they too are ready to spread their wings and fly to Kindergarten, prepared to handle what lies ahead.

There are a few 3 year old AM spots and a few 4 year old PM spots open for September. Give us a call 295-7320.

We are looking for a half-day preschool teacher with an Early Childhood Degree for September. Someone with experience is preferred and a special education degree a plus. Send résumé to: St. Paul's Nursery School, 76 Main Street, Wickford, RI 02852. Attention: Linda Taraborelli.

God Bless, *Linda*

Go Paperless

Have you ever wondered why some folks never seem to put an envelope in the basket at the Offertory? It may be because they have gone paperless--chosen to give their pledge electronically. This can be done through a bank transfer or a credit card using PayPal. The treasurer has seen a growing number elect this method including Vestry members. This has greatly helped even out the seasonal dips in revenue, so please give it some thought. If you would like additional information, feel free to contact Treasurer Kirsten Rounds through the Church office, 294-4357.