

# St. Paul's Episcopal Church



*This is a new format for our newsletter.*

## **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.

## **Thought for Lent**

God gave us life  
that we might be  
born into His eternity.

God gave us prayer  
that we might know  
the way in which  
our souls should grow.

God gave us Christ  
that we might see  
invisible reality.



## Rector's Reflections: Prune



I've been procrastinating doing something about it for a while now. Time and again I'll walk out into the back yard and look and think to myself, "I really have to tackle that sometime soon, before the weather warms up."

I'm talking about pruning the rose bushes and some of the other plants in the yard. The roses are especially difficult to prune. They have an enormous number of very sharp thorns so that even with gloves on I often get pierced. I suppose that's one of the reasons that I tend to procrastinate - it's painful. But if I don't get to it, and leave last year's growth unpruned, the plants will suffer. The branches will get gangly and leafy, and there won't be nearly as many flowers. Consequently, the bees will have less nectar to feed on, and will breed fewer young. There won't be nearly as much pollen spread around, and so there will be fewer rose bushes for the future. In short, much of the purpose for the existence of those rose bushes will be hampered. Yikes, all that just because I failed to prune! Of course, I'm exaggerating a bit. I don't really think life, as we know it on the planet, will actually come to an end if I don't prune those roses. But pruning the bushes does help them grow stronger.

That's the way it is with us as well. It may seem ironic, but people can experience pruning and that can help people grow stronger.

On Presidents' Day I was sitting having lunch with two of my children – the middle two. We were chatting about all sorts of things, and then, as many conversations do these days, the talk turned to the economy. They were venting about people who had bought big ticket houses on low salaries. They agreed that it was greed – the need to have it all

before you'd worked for it. Then one of the kids asked, "Dad, what do you think will happen?" I love it when the kids get old enough to ask what I think. I use those opportunities to reflect very

carefully. What I said was that I thought the next three to ten years would be very painful – painful for almost everyone, in this country and around the world, but that I believed it would make people around the world stronger in values and character than we've been for a generation or more. I believe that we're being pruned, and that the purpose of the pruning is for our own good – that collectively we'll be stronger and better for it if only we seek God's help and work together instead of against each other. Pruning helps communities, nations and the global community to draw closer and work together instead of taking advantage of each other.

Pruning helps individuals, too. That's what Jesus experienced during those 40 days in the wilderness, which we commemorate in Lent. He drew even closer to His Father, God, and became far clearer about the mission that God had in store for Him. Usually I recommend "taking something on for Lent", whether a discipline of prayer, study of scripture, some regular act of service to others, or discussion like Wednesday Night Live. But I also recommend some self-pruning. It's a fine time to simplify life, but not merely to lose weight or spend less money. As Jesus would say, "Those bring their own rewards." I'm talking about looking at our own lives to see what sort of thing we depend upon which detracts from the quality of our lives or our relationship with God, then pruning it – disciplining ourselves to refrain from it. Let's use a simple one- let's say it's coffee. Say you drink a couple of cups of coffee each morning. Suppose you take the time you'd use to make or buy the coffee and drink it, and use that time for talking with God instead. Say you used the money you'd spend on it to give to the North Kingstown Food Pantry or some foreign mission. Say you offered that to God as an act of worship. I believe that's an act of pruning, and that it can make a person stronger in spirit. Prune.

Affectionately,

*Phil*

## Mardi Gras

It's *Mardi Gras* at St. Paul's - Sunday, March 1, a day of oasis amidst the wilderness of Lent! For the fellowship and fun of it more than 20 acts will be offered by parishioners at the variety show, starting at 3:30 PM in the Parish Hall. Donations for the show will be gratefully received upon entry. Baked goods and refreshments will be on sale during intermission. Tickets will be available for the drawing of the brand new Samsung 32" LCD high definition TV, with the winner drawn at the end of the show. All proceeds from the variety show and refreshments and half of the proceeds from ticket sales for the TV drawing will be used for the mission to the Dominican Republic. The rest of the proceeds from the sale of tickets for the drawing will be given to the North Kingstown Food Pantry. Don't miss out on all the fun; remember March 1!

## Episcopal Charities Weekend

Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, will be *Episcopal Charities* weekend. The sermon time during each of the services will be devoted to presentations by charities supported by donations to the Episcopal Charities Appeal.

## Thanks for the Generosity

The children of the Sunday school have donated more than **\$250 to ministries in Haiti, matched by others to bring the total contribution to the people of Haiti to more than \$1,000.** Those funds may seem like drop in the bucket for all the needs that exist in that country, but when you consider that Haiti is the poorest country in the entire Western Hemisphere it is, in fact, a spectacular gift of love. The help that it will bring will be far-reaching and the generosity in hard times in our own country is exemplary! Thanks to all those who helped.

## Convocation 2009 "Church: Back to the Basics"

**When:** March 6th -7th, 2009 (register by March 4th)

**Where:** The Providence Marriott Hotel, 10 Orms Street Providence RI

**Information:** Come to Convocation 2009 to fill your toolbox with the resources necessary to transform your church into a healthy and vibrant faith community. This year's keynote speaker is the Rev. Carol Anderson of All Saints' Church, Beverly Hills. In addition to Carol's Friday evening and Saturday morning presentations, four workshop tracts will be offered; Treasurers' Workshop, Communications, Christian Formation, and Leadership Development. Choose one tract or mix and match to meet your interests and needs.

**Contact:** For a schedule of events and other information download the 2009 Convocation Brochure and Registration Form at [www.episcopalri.org](http://www.episcopalri.org) or e-mail [liz@episcopalri.org](mailto:liz@episcopalri.org)

### The color purple

We are in the church season of Lent. Many churches have purple paraments on the altar, lectern and pulpit. Many pastors and choir members wear purple stoles. Why purple?

In ancient times, purple garments were expensive and hard to find. The dye came from rare sea mollusks that had to be crushed to garner their purple fluid. (One ounce of purple dye required 250,000 mollusks!) Then the right kind of fabric had to be placed in the dye, dried and made into clothing, which was time-consuming.

Generally, only wealthy people and members of royalty could afford purple garments. For example, in the story of the rich man and Lazarus, the rich man "was dressed in purple and fine linen" (Luke 16:19, NRSV).

Purple is used in church sanctuaries during Advent and Lent because Christ is revered as the King of Kings.

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



Visiting Artist Annie Laver will present a program of Bach, Mendelssohn, Widor, and Sweelinck entitled " Music for Reflection" at St. Paul's

on the mighty Stuart mechanical action organ March 8 at 4:00pm. Ms. Laver is a very talented young woman and this promises to be a very exciting afternoon. Invite a friend and come along! A reception will follow in the chapter room.

Annie Laver, a native of Woodstock, Connecticut, is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree as a student of Hans Davidsson at the Eastman School of Music. She completed her bachelor’s degree in international relations and music at Brown University, where she was an organ student of Mark Steinbach. Upon graduation, she spent a year studying with Jacques van Oortmerssen at the Conservatory of Amsterdam while living in nearby Leiden. In addition to her time in the Netherlands, Ms. Laver has given performances as part of institutes in Sweden and France and has taught English and music in Germany.

Annie Laver has enjoyed working as a church musician throughout her time as a student. She has served as organist for Brown University chapel services, the Maranatha Church, Leiden, and most recently First English Lutheran Church in Appleton, Wisconsin. Ms. Laver is currently conducting research for a doctoral essay on organ exhibits and concerts shown at the 1893 Worlds’ Columbian Exposition in Chicago. In July 2008, she received an Alan Laufman Research Grant from the Organ Historical Society to help fund this project.

It is not too late to join the parish choir for the Feast of the Resurrection and Holy Week. We will be singing the ethereal Kodaly Missa Brevis and selections from Handel's Messiah, among others. The children's and youth choirs are also gearing up for Easter at the ONC, so see Rozanne or Nancy or simply have your child show up at 10:00am on Sunday for rehearsal. The youth choir is also prepping for their annual state-wide Evensong which will take place April 24 in East Greenwich this year. What a wonderful opportunity to meet other youth from the Diocese and share the ministry of song!

Thanks to all of you who give so freely of your time, talents, and selves. SDG- Soli Deo Gloria. ("to God be the glory" - Bach signed all of his musical manuscripts with this epithet.)

Peace,  
*Mark*

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“Speaking to yourselves in **psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord**; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.”

[Ephesians 5: 19-21](#)



## Youth News

### Middle School Youth Group

The Middle School youth group continues to meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month. During our last meeting on February 1st the group of eight participated in the pre-Super Bowl party. After the Team Devotions and Prayer, the story of David and Goliath and a game of tag football, the group settled in for snacks and a discussion on being a hero, superstar, winning and losing. By the end of the discussion they concluded that "It's not cool, plus it just doesn't feel good, to win if you have to cheat."

I wish to thank Suzie Lahey for helping during our recent MSY outing to Yawgoo Ski Area where the group enjoyed snow tubing and a pizza party. Parents and chaperones make fun-filled events possible; I truly appreciate the help and delightfully welcome & encourage all to join in.

As so many of the MSY participated in St. Paul's Mardi Gras Variety Show our March gathering was incorporated in that time frame. Thank you to each and every one of you ~ my heart was filled with joy as I watched you share your God given talents ~ you're truly an amazing group!

The Episcopal Conference Center's application forms for summer 2009 are available in the Narthex, by calling ECC 568-4055 or contacting Trish at ext. 105.

If you are a parent of a MSY and are interested in helping form a parental advisory committee, a meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, March 8th following Sunday school.

**REMINDER: Our next MSY gathering is Sunday, April 5th 5-6:15**

### High School Youth

The High School Youth group is open to all teens in grades 9-12. It's a great group that's not complicated or demanding ~ it's simply

encouraging and always inspiring! During our February 2nd gathering the HSY group worked together to design and paint the backdrop for the variety show. Great team work!

A special thank you to: HSY group members Ali Elliot, Emily Petit, Jess Walsh & Alexis Ward for providing child care during Wednesday Night Live – you are super volunteers; Nancy & Henry Gauthier for your support with St. Paul's mission trip & the North Kingstown Food Pantry; all the parishioners who purchased the 270 pizzas that the missioners made at their pizza making extravaganza.

My sincere appreciation to each and every one of you who helped with St. Paul's Mardi Gras Variety Show. With your support, hard work and talent, the show was magnificently successful!

Mission trip: The missioners are eagerly anticipating their participation in St. Paul's mission to the Dominican Republic. On February 23rd an informative parental/missioners meeting was held. The missioners destination will be Monte de la Transfiguration Episcopal Camp. The dates of the mission will be April 12th through April 19th. There is much to do prior to our departure and I ask that you pray for us ~ for God's Blessings and His Grace to guide and strengthen us.

**REMINDER: Our next HSY gathering is Monday, March 2nd 5-6:15**

Peace,  
Trish



### Soup Kitchen News

On Saturday February 7, 2009 we had a cheerful and strong group of volunteers serving a hot meal of spaghetti and meatballs to over 80 patrons of the Ephipany soup kitchen at Grace Church in Providence.

They were: Bethany Lindaebld, Abby Turner, Sheila Turner, Kelsey Emry, Kate Schnell, Allie Tetreault, Alice Toll, Jennifer Schnell, Samantha Burton and Scott Burton. Thanks to all of you! Anyone interested in the opportunity to put prayers into action at the soup kitchen can join me on April 4th. Thanks again!

**Tina Egan -- 401.480.8937.**

## Sunday School



## News

There will be Sunday school on every Sunday during the month of March. This will allow us to have some continuity in our program that was absent during the winter months. New students are always welcome, as well as friends. We have lots of fun activities planned for the upcoming weeks.

- The Tenth grade confirmation students will be meeting with Father Phil for a question and answer session on March 15. This is a great class to have any questions answered about faith, the Episcopal Church, and confirmation. All tenth graders are welcome.
- **Confirmation will be held on May 2, at 10 am, at the Cathedral in Providence.** Please mark this date on your calendars and let me know if you are unable to attend on this date.
- The **fifth grade Emmaus class will be meeting with Father Phil on March 1** for a question and answer session.
- Fifth graders are encouraged to attend classes during March because we will be covering a variety of topics of importance to the Emmaus class, including having a Seder to help explain the Eucharist, and determining what parts we would like to perform during the **Youth Sunday repair on May 17th.**
- With the Children's Choir, we will be learning a new song to sing for the Church.
- All grades will be planning fun and interesting activities for the new month, as well as our newest informational community service project.

Thank you to Father Fred and Father Phil for leading the classes on the Instructed Eucharist with the Confirmation and Emmaus classes. The classes enjoyed learning about Communion in a new and

enlightening way. We thank you for your time and knowledge, and we look forward to meeting with you again.

The Sunday school would like to thank everyone for the support of our Haiti project. In February, **we sent a total of \$1,028 to the Religious of Jesus and Mary Mission in Gros Morne, Haiti.** Our contact there, Sister Jackie Picard, will be letting us know how we helped the local community that was devastated by the four hurricanes that hit there this past summer. Thanks you for your overwhelming support.

*Lori*

## North Kingstown Ecumenical Lenten Lunches



Each Lent the churches of North Kingstown offer a series of talks with lunch. This year the theme will be Face to Face. Each Wednesday lunch will be provided at one of the local churches. Each week a guest speaker will make a 20-minute presentation as follows:

- February 25:** Christians Face to Face with Violence – N.K. United Methodist Church
- March 4:** Christians Face to Face with Addiction – First Baptist Church of N.K.
- March 11:** Christians Face to Face with Hunger and Poverty – St. Paul's Church
- March 18:** Christians Face to Face with the Environment – St. Bernard's Church
- March 25:** Christians Face to Face with Aging – First Baptist Church in Wickford
- April 1:** Christians Face to Face with Health Care – Seventh Day Adventist Church

**Remember to turn clocks ahead on Saturday night, March 7th!**





Nursery School  
News

St. Paul's  
"Weekday"  
Nursery  
School  
News:

Three year old

**class news:** February was a busy month for our 3 year olds. This month our focus was on friendship and Valentines Day. We learned how to keep our bodies and teeth healthy. We began a "Let's Get Fit" program including some Yoga and gross motor exercises. We celebrated Groundhog Day by making a puppet with coffee grounds and touched upon Black history month. After our Winter break we enjoyed a unit on transportation. Our color of the month was pink and our shape was the heart.

**Four Year Old Class News:** On February 2, we watched the news with our families before school to find out if the groundhog saw his shadow. We compared what happened in Pennsylvania to the predictions we made in class. In February the 4's began an "All About Me" unit. We practiced reciting our birthdays, addresses and phone numbers. We talked about our families, pets, friends, things we like to do and things we like to collect. We finished our number unit and sent home each child's individual number book. We continued our alphabet unit and we ended the month with a unit on the 5 senses.

Registrations are continuing to come in and we are nearly full for next year. We still have a few spots left for our 3 and 4 year old classes. Call the school for more information and to schedule a tour (295-7320).

God Bless,  
*Linda*

Good Friday Offering

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

For almost a century, the Good Friday Offering has been a source of support, love and hope for the people of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. This year's 87th Good Friday Offering offers us the opportunity to be nourished by a deepened bond with the churches in the region that is so central to our faith. In my time as Presiding Bishop, I have been deeply moved by their stories of the pain that division brings to the lives of all in this Province of the Anglican Communion.

The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East was formed in 1841 with the purpose of forging friendships with the ancient churches and serving the expatriate communities in this area. The friendships made then have strengthened the work and witness of the entire Episcopal Church ever since. Since 1922, members of the Episcopal Church have given thanks for this extraordinary relationship through their generous giving to the Good Friday Offering. This offering expresses our own commitment to walk with the church of Jerusalem & the Middle East as they continue to work toward justice, reconciliation, and peace. Through our support of these churches we are helping to realize God's vision of shalom.

Again, please join with me in celebrating the work of the Good Friday Offering by generously sharing the gifts we have been given with our sisters and brothers in the Middle East.

I remain Your servant in Christ,  
Katharine Jefferts Schori





# WEDNESDAYS *during Lent*

## Wednesday Night Live at St. Paul's

**When?** Every Wednesday Evening –  
January 28<sup>th</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup>

**Where?** St. Paul's Parish Hall

**Who's it for?** Everyone

### **What's going to happen?**

*Naturally parishioners will come and go as they need, and you don't have to take part in all the events to take part in some of them.*

5:00 – Eucharist with Healing Prayer

5:45 – Dinner

6:15 – Sing and a Prayer

6:30 – Discussion Groups

- The Beatitudes facilitated by Ninni Jacob
- Yoga with Suzie Lahey
- Comparing the Christian Denominations w/ Fred Nestrock
- Financial Peace w/ Dave Ramsey
- The Bible and the Daily News w/ Phil Tierney

7:30 – Home Again

**What'll it cost?** Voluntary donations are gratefully received for dinner. Food will be provided by Gregg's Restaurant.

## January/February Christian Action

### Notes

The Christian Action Committee meets monthly to decide which charities will receive donations from St Paul's Church. Six percent of pledged income goes to Outreach work and the CAC directs half of those funds.

In January, we gave \$500 to the Good Neighbor Energy Fund given the difficult economic climate. We supported the Sunday School project for awareness and aid to Haiti with a \$250 gift which will be matched by an anonymous donor. We also renewed our membership in the Southern Poverty Law Center. This organization does innovative work in fighting bigoted organizations like the Ku Klux Klan. They have developed a Teaching Tolerance program for teachers.

Consistent with our goals of reaching local, national and international organizations, we donated \$250 to Friends of the World Food Program for relief in Zimbabwe. Thomasine Manickas recently visited there and related how desperate the food situation is. The Friends organization is an NGO and United Nations subsidiary that rates very highly on Charity Navigator.

This year, we plan to support Habitat for the Humanity with a \$1,000 donation. Also, we plan to give \$3,000 seed money to re-establish the chaplaincy program at St. Elizabeth's Nursing Home. The program was having a broad positive impact for residents, staff and families, when it lost its funding due to the resignation of a chaplain. Our former rector, Peter Spencer, works with the program.

Finally, Crossroads RI, an organization for the homeless and those in transition, will receive \$250 directed toward their North Kingstown transitional housing facility. They will raze one of the buildings on Devils Foot Road this year and replace it with more modern apartment buildings. Their usual residence time limit of two years will be suspended for a time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen Godley