

MAY 2009

# St. Paul's Episcopal Church



A Monthly Newsletter

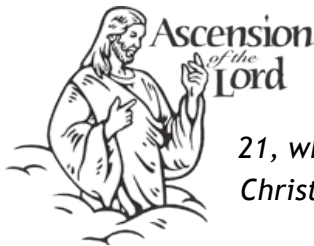
May 2009

## 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 Ascension

Many Christian churches will celebrate Ascension Day on (or near) May 21, which is 40 days after Easter. Theologian Friedemann Hebart explained Christ's Ascension this way:

*"When Jesus' work on Earth was done, he took leave of his disciples and went to be with his Father. A time for sad farewells, one might think. Yet the church celebrates the Ascension with special joy. What is the reason for joy when Jesus leaves his people?"*

*"The Ascension is not the end of Jesus' work, but a new beginning! How could Jesus ever leave us alone? Because he has gone to be Lord of the universe, he can continue his work of life and love – among us, too. His work was not just a short episode in Galilee. In the person of the Holy Spirit, the same Lord is present among us, still revealing the Father's loving heart, so that we, too, can believe – and sing songs of joy."*



## Rector's Reflections

Once again, this year, it seems only fitting to reflect upon mission. There are three reasons that come to my mind. One is pretty obvious. Immersed in a mission to the Dominican Republic, my mind goes immediately to mission. The second is that Jesus' resurrection begs mission. The third is that looking forward as we are to the Feasts of the Ascension and Pentecost mission is in the air. The fact of the matter is that Jesus' ministry and the Christian faith is all about mission.

Just consider these points. Mark's account of Jesus' call of the 12 apostles states, "He appointed them to be with Him, and to be sent out to preach..." In fact, the word 'apostle' meant messenger – one sent to deliver a message. But that role wasn't limited to the apostles. Luke tells us that Jesus sent out 70 of His followers, and told them, "Whenever you enter a town and they receive you... heal the sick and say, 'the kingdom of God has come near to you.'" One of the few times we're told that Jesus rejoiced was when they returned from their mission with tales of their work. At the time of Jesus' ascension the very last thing that Jesus said to His followers was this: "Go therefore and make disciple of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you..." Then, at Pentecost, once the Holy Spirit came to them, the first thing Jesus' followers did was to go out on a mission to proclaim the good news of Christ. Mission, mission, mission!

The Episcopal Church, mothered as we were by the Church of England, originally came into existence as a result of Christian missionaries, though we have been woefully lacking in missionary zeal throughout our history since then.. It's true that in the nineteenth century the Episcopal Church was involved in missions to various peoples, but after that brief dabbling in mission the Church has focused most of its attention on self-care. The problem with that

approach to church is that it tends to breed preoccupation with our selves. We tend to ask questions like these: "Am I feeling good?" "Am I being served?" "Am I being taken care of?" Are my opinions and preferences being attended to?" "Am I getting my way?" and so forth. Can you possibly imagine Jesus calling people together to do that? Can you imagine Him scurrying around to ask how His followers were feeling or if they're being served? What do you think He'd say in response to that mentality?

The fact is that whenever people – especially Jesus' followers – resist being outward looking to serve others they become inward looking to serve themselves. And that's something always to be wrestled against. The best way to overcome it is to serve in Christ's mission, not just individually, but collectively. Churches, including St. Paul's exist to serve in Christ's mission. The teens have done it, and it transforms lives. Adults should, too, locally and in the wider world. That's why I'd like to suggest that we think about developing missions for adults to do – in our wider community and somewhere else. Perhaps serving in a mission to New Orleans or to Navajo Land. The mission of Christ's Gospel is always essential, and we should be about it all the time.

Affectionately in Christ,

*Phil*

See page 3  
IMPORTANT DATES TO  
REMEMBER



## From the Director of Music and Liturgy

A huge thank you to all who assisted the music ministry and gave of their time and talents at St. Paul's during Holy Week and Easter: Kevin O'Connor and Buddy Cavaleri at the Easter Eve baptism service, Ray and Nick Jorgensen and family who led the (CHILLY!) Easter Sunrise music, Rozanne Fuller, Nancy Sherman and youth and children choristers who with Joe and Bonnie Smith led the service music in the Old Narragansett Church, and the Parish Choir and cantors who joined forces with brass and timpani to make a splendid noise at St. Paul's. Thank you each for your support of St. Paul's which makes such music-making possible!

I cannot believe that I first arrived at St. Paul's in November of 1990 ("my how time flies..."), but it is true. In any case, it is time for me to take a little sabbatical, which will include the month of May. One of my sabbatical projects includes recording organ works of the Viennese composer Anton Heiller (1923-1979.) Heiller was a staunch Catholic and influenced by Bach, jazz and plainchant, among other things.

Please welcome the ever-capable Diana Norton-Jackson who will be filling in for me during my absence. She will also be leading the choir in a glorious Pentecost Evensong Sunday May 31 at 7:00 pm at St. Paul's.

If you would like to try out singing with the choir this summer at the Old Narragansett Church, simply come upstairs and join us in leading hymns and service music.

Peace,  
*Mark*

## Special Dates to Remember from the Rector

### Confirmation

The annual service of Confirmation for St. Paul's will be held on **Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at St. John's Cathedral in Providence.** Those being confirmed should get there an hour ahead of time. The Confirmation service is scheduled to begin at 10:00 am.

### Holy Baptism

The next service of Holy Baptism is scheduled for **Sunday, May 31, the Feast of Pentecost.** Please contact Debbie at the parish office (294-4357) to arrange for a baptism.

### The Feast of Pentecost

Next to the Feast of the Nativity and Easter the Feast of Pentecost is the most important Christian feast day of the year. It celebrates all sorts of spiritual events. On Pentecost God gave the Holy Spirit to Jesus' followers for the first time. On Pentecost the Church was born. On Pentecost the Church first began Christ's mission. Pentecost is a wonderful occasion, and so we'll be celebrating it, this year as always, in the special ways it deserves.

Please contact the parish office if you are able to read in another language, so that we can hear the Gospel read in languages other than our own native tongue – to remind us of our mission to all peoples.



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](mailto:youth@stpaulswickford.org).

~God's Peace,  
*Trish*

**Mardi Gras:** This year's variety show was a great success thanks to the hard work and wonderful spirit of all those talented members of St. Paul's, who participated! So many parishioners helped so much. It is your talents and generosity, which makes St. Paul's such a special church.

**Middle School Youth (MSY):** The MSY went bowling on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Nineteen kids and several parents went to Old Mountain Bowling Lanes in Wakefield to bowl. We had lots of fun and a wonderful time. Special thanks to the moms who helped chaperone.

**High School Youth (HSY):** The teen missionaries to the Dominican Republic with some of their parents, as part of their team building, prepared and served the food for a Seder Eucharist for MSY and the kids from the Emmaus class. There were 35 of us in all for the Seder, which was held in the parish hall. It was truly very informative and uplifting for all of us. There was a remarkable community spirit during the entire event.

The missionaries just returned from an amazing mission to Campo de Transfiguracion, Jarabacoa in the Dominican Republic. I don't know of a more life changing experience than teens participating in a mission to people in a different culture. God was with us through those wonderful Dominican children, and with our Dominican brothers and sisters. We'll tell you more about it in the weeks to come, including Youth Sunday – May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Lots to come ... Just look for further information to MSY and HSY by e-mail and in the bulletins.



Most Christians pray daily, but one day a year is set aside as a National Day of Prayer. The first Thursday in May is designated as a day for the people of the United States to offer prayer and meditation at churches, in groups and as individuals. Here are some thoughts on prayer:

- We must come out from prayer the most rapturous and sweet, only to do harder and ever harder works for God and our neighbors.

—St. Teresa of Avila

- Prayer is not an old woman's idle amusement. Properly understood and applied, it is the most potent instrument of action. ... Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness. ... It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart.

—Mahatma Gandhi



## Sunday School News



Why, why, why, why, why? If you ask my class of Emmaus students what my favorite word is they will tell you “Why!” I’m always asking them questions. “Why does the church have symbols?” “Why did Jesus tell stories about shepherds and fishermen?” “Why do we celebrate Eucharist?” Now is the time in their education that we try to get them to understand what is going on around them in the church.

Last month, Phil wrote in his article that the kids did not know why Jesus died on the cross. If you ask the kids that question, they are able to parrot back everything they have been taught over the years...He died for our sins, He died so we can go to heaven, so we can have eternal life. It’s not that they haven’t been taught the information; it’s in the understanding of the concept. This became apparent when Father Phil put the kids in a hypothetical situation. He began speaking about doing something wrong and the consequences of getting into trouble. When asked to put themselves in the position to take the punishment for someone else’s wrongdoing, the response was unanimous-“Why would I ever do that?” The class could not understand why anyone would ever take the punishment for someone else. Understanding such a powerful idea comes to people at different times in their spiritual development. I remember one Good Friday service when I saw a woman crying at the foot of the cross. She had just been hit by the magnitude of what Jesus had done for her so many years ago. Crying out she said, “Why did He do that for me?” Still questioning, but with different understanding.

Understanding is achieved throughout one’s lifetime. There is no graduation from learning. Many people view confirmation as a graduation from Sunday school. It’s not. Even as the confirmands renew their baptismal vows, they may still have questions. That’s OK; our minds are made to question. We encourage the students to question. Will all their questions be answered? Of

course not. Each student is at a different level of spiritual development. It’s impossible to bring everyone to the same point by the end of the year, but it is why we offer so many supplemental opportunities for growth during the year. There are Wednesday Night Live classes, ECC retreats, Happenings, the mission trip, youth group meetings, and special clergy led classes where the students have the opportunity to ask Father Phil any question they want. Students can take advantage of these offerings to increase their spiritual development and understanding at their own rate and desire.

As we finish out the educational year, we have a very exciting calendar. Please check the dates for opportunities to watch the growth of our children. It’s an exciting time at St. Paul’s. Come, join the fun.

*Lori*



## A gift for Mom

The three young children told their mother that she wasn’t to lift a finger on Mother’s



## Mother's Day

Day. They were going to do all the cooking. So, they got out three pots, two frying pans, six measuring spoons, three mixing bowls, a double boiler, a chopping board and eight serving dishes. Mom said it was the best Jell-O she had ever tasted!



## ART FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

Want to be part of one of the oldest and most significant St. Paul's activities? The Art Festival dates are July 10, 11 and 12. Volunteers are needed for all jobs from pie bakers to grill masters. Proceeds from the event go to the scholarship fund. If you are a veteran or have some new ideas or would just like to see what it is all about, please come. **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED AND IT'S FUN!** For more information call the church office at 294-4357.

## Christian Action News

At the April Vestry meeting the following Christian Action donations were approved:  
-\$500 -- Episcopal Relief and Development for earthquake recovery in Italy  
-\$500 -- Heifer Project for earthquake recovery in China  
-\$500 -- Johnnycake Center in Peacedale  
-\$500 -- North Kingstown Food Pantry  
Your faithful commitments to your pledges makes these possible. Thank you



## Soup Kitchen News



On April 4th, a very hard working team consisting of smiling Colleen Glado and Paul Sardelli, Susan Rylander and Tina assisted the exceptional people at our soup kitchen at Grace Church to make and serve a hot and wholesome meal of hamburgers, mashed potatoes and corn to hunger patrons.

Please join us June 6th for the chance to witness the fun and magic of the soup kitchen. Contact Tina Egan - 480.8937 or [logicgoddess15@cox.net](mailto:logicgoddess15@cox.net).

## Gratitude Abounding

Thanks to all of those who made Holy Week so special at St. Paul's. The clergy did 18 services. This required the support of ushers, acolytes, readers, chalice bearers, and a host of others. The music was phenomenal with the adult choir singing at seven services and the children singing on Easter. The Altar Guild, as always, arranged the beautiful lilies and spring flowers for Easter. We are so fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers and such a hard working staff. **Over 1,000 persons attended our services!**



Nursery School  
News

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

**Three Year Old Class News:** During the month of April we talked about the color blue and the oval shape. We learned about birds and how they make their nests. We talked about April showers and made rain sticks and delicious "puddle cake" that we enjoyed eating at snack time. We also began raising our caterpillars and watching them change. We hope they will turn into butterflies soon. Before our Spring break, we had a visit from the Audubon Society with The Very Hungry Caterpillar Program. It was great! We finished the month with a unit on the ocean. Parent/teacher conferences took place at the end of April to discuss the growth that has taken place this year.

**Four Year Old Class News:** "April Fools Day" was called "Wacky Wednesday" for both the 3 and 4 year olds. The children wore their clothes backwards or wore two different shoes or socks on their feet to school. We had wacky food for snack time. During April we continued learning about the changes that take place in the springtime as part of our Signs of Spring unit. We learned about spring weather, insects, Easter, eggs, spring animals, and plants. After the Spring break, we celebrated Earth Day and participated in an Earth Day clean-up of our school grounds. We discussed ways we can help our environment. We ended the month with parent/teacher conferences, our bus trip and safety program and made preparations for our May Day Brunch.

We would like to again thank all of our families for their patience and understanding throughout this past season for any inconveniences they may have

experienced with the road construction on Main Street. We are still looking for students for our 4 year old afternoon class. If interested please call the school at 295-7320.

God Bless,

*Linda*

## Golden Belles and Beaus

### "Red White and Blue Spring Luncheon"

Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 11 a.m. to  
1:30 p.m.

Honoring all those who served  
in the U. S. Military



Please make your reservation by  
Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> in the Parish  
Office (401) 294-4357.

An excerpt from

Charging the  
Human Battery  
By Mac Anderson



*Sing psalms, hymns and  
spiritual songs with gratitude  
in your hearts to God.*

*Colossians 3:16*

~  
~ **"The hardest  
arithmetic to  
master is  
that which enables  
us to count our  
blessings."**  
-Eric Hoffer

**Reflect for a moment on this beautiful quote  
from Melody Beattie:**

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns **denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity.** It can turn **a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.** Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow."

Mac Anderson is the founder Simple Truths & Successories, the leader in creating products for employee motivation and recognition.

According to legend, a young man while roaming the desert came across a spring of delicious crystal-clear water. The water was so sweet he filled his leather canteen so he could bring some back to a tribal elder who had been his teacher. After a four-day journey he presented the water to the old man who took a deep drink, smiled warmly and thanked his student lavishly for the sweet water. The young man returned to his village with a happy heart.

Later, the teacher let another student taste the water. He spat it out, saying it was awful. It apparently had become stale because of the old leather container. The student challenged his teacher: "Master, the water was foul. Why did you pretend to like it?"

The teacher replied, "You only tasted the water. I tasted the gift. The water was simply the container for an act of living-kindness and nothing could be sweeter."

Self-motivation without gratitude is impossible. Our energy is "sapped" when our entire focus is on what's wrong instead of what is right with our lives. One of our greatest challenges is to live and love in spite of pain and disappointment...to find gratitude in the midst of it all.

### **Dream Team Reminder**

Meeting Dates

in the Chapter Room

May 3 Sunday 7- 8:30 pm

May 5 Tuesday 7 - 8:30 pm

May 7 Thursday 10 -11:30 am

**Stay tuned. You can also visit  
the website at**

**[www.stpaulswickford.org](http://www.stpaulswickford.org)**