

MAY 2010

# St. Paul's Episcopal Church



A Monthly Newsletter

May 2010

## 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.



## **I am with you always**

The Ascension of Christ is celebrated 40 days after Easter. It focuses upon the ascent of Christ into heaven shortly before Pentecost.

The Ascension is important to Christians because it reminds us that while Christ's human body could not be present everywhere, Christ's spiritual presence can be experienced universally. St. Matthew's Gospel tells us Christ's last words to his friends were, "Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20 NRSV). And so Christ is!

### Discerning God's Call

The most difficult thing about following God's call is leaving where you've been. And that's certainly true for me as I prepare to retire. I will miss you profoundly. We've come to know and care deeply for the people of St. Paul's during our time here. As I mentioned in the letter announcing my retirement, I'll always keep you in my prayers and close to my heart. You're wonderful, and it's been a privilege serving you. As we age we tend to reminisce. The summer of 1973 seems ages ago, and now that I think about it, I suppose it was. I was a seminarian at the time and accepted a call to serve a community church in Cheverie, Quebec, Canada for the summer. It was an English-speaking fishing village just about 30 miles south of the Labrador border. Albeit that I spent only 3 months among the 250 people of that village, I wept most of the flight home, beginning at the dirt airstrip in Cheverie all the way to Logan Airport. More than that, the faces of those folks pop to mind again and again, and when they do, I offer prayers for them -- that after only 3 months. So just imagine how much more my heart and mind will be filled with thoughts and feelings of you as well as prayers for your wellbeing. I'll miss you so much!

Now it may seem strange to talk about leaving while at the same time planning to stay in the same place. How is it possible to leave and stay at the same time? As many at St. Paul's know from the experience of Peter's retirement, almost ten years ago, a rector is not permitted to remain involved with the people of the parish he or she has served after that priest has left. While this is hard to do, it is a rule that has proven to be in the best interest of both the retiring priest and the Church community.

I don't often stop to think about it. I suppose few of us do until we're faced with calls to make a significant change. But most of the main characters in the Bible spent much of their adult lives moving from one place to another. Adam and Eve did; but so did Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Jacob, Moses, the Israelites, many of the judges and prophets, St.

Paul, and, of course, Jesus, Himself. Faith involves action, and action often involves movement. That's one of the reasons people speak of faith as a journey. I imagine all those biblical heroes experienced some of the same kinds of feelings that we do as we prepare to follow God on the next leg of the journey that He's laid out before us. I feel grief -- the loss of familiar friends and activities, intermingled with exhilaration -- the excitement of a new adventure. Nonetheless we must follow our sense of God's call and be faithful to it even if it entails the pain of loss.

More than one person recently has asked me, "How do you know when, or if, God is calling you to do something?" Discernment involves listening to God and also knowing yourself and His gifts to you. When I try to discern God's will and God's call, I use my head, my heart, my loved ones, my intuition, my awareness of myself and my circumstances, scripture and lots of prayer -- to determine who I am and what God is calling me to be and to do.

What do all those sources tell me? Scripture tells me that a follower of Christ never retires from serving God or representing Christ to those around him. It's never a matter of whether God wants us to serve Him, but rather how. Scripture also points out that His people, whom He calls to serve Him, often have different stages in their ministries. My knowledge of myself has told me that, while God has continued to bless different aspects of ministry or gifts that God has been gracious enough to grant me, such as preaching, teaching and spiritual guidance, I have been exhausted for too long, and those closest to me have been keenly aware of it. That has affected my performance of other aspects of parish ministry, including administrative attentiveness, casual encounters and my level of patience. Unchecked, this can only hamper my impact upon the strength of the church, and that's the last thing I'd ever want to do. After much prayer over the past couple of years I have only found that God has said, "The time has come." And my interpretation of that is that my time to shift the focus and context -- the expression -- of ministry has come.

I've never felt that I've had much skill at writing, but there are things that seem to me compelling to be said. I haven't been able to try to do so amidst the demands of parish life, but I feel deeply drawn in that direction. My role is to put myself at God's disposal, and to see what comes of it. Who knows, it may just be that I'm becoming a curmudgeon in my advancing years, and that's all I'll find. We'll see.

That leads me to St. Paul's. God's call for me to leave thrusts upon St. Paul's a discernment process as well -- the search for a new rector, yes, but also an inner spiritual one as well. As all discernment does, it requires self-knowledge and knowledge of God, but also the willingness to follow where God wants the church to go. The journey of faith means most significantly movement within -- an inward journey of spiritual growth -- of growth in Christ -- becoming who God wants you to be and doing what God wants you to do. That applies to churches as well as individuals.

St. Paul's has all sorts of strengths. I've mentioned them often before. They include, but are not limited to, the following: The people of God at St. Paul's are deeply **spiritual** and **devoted** to God. The people of God at St. Paul's are focused on **worship and the sacraments**. The people of God at St. Paul's are **open to the Holy Spirit**. The people of God at St. Paul's are **prayerful** and have a **healing** ministry. The people of God at St. Paul's are **compassionate**. The people of God at St. Paul's are eager to **reach out** to help those in need and care about the wider community. The people of God at St. Paul's are **generous**. The people of God at St. Paul's care about **children's ministries**. The people of God at St. Paul's are **committed** and open to **volunteer**. St. Paul's is a great church!

For all that is good at St. Paul's, or any community for that matter, there are also opportunities for growth as well. St. Paul's has room for growth in the area of hospitality toward newcomers. Shyness can be overcome with a little effort to override the discomfort of first encounters. Somewhat related to this is that people could learn better how to speak clearly with the people directly involved about the questions, concerns and ideas

they have related to matters at the church and resist the temptation to speak to third parties about it instead. Direct and clear communication is not confrontation, and disagreement need not give rise to triangulation or politicization. There is also room for growth in self-sacrifice related to stewardship. The more we give the more room there is for God to provide and the greater is the potential for gratitude and joy.

The goal of the church is not to get our way, after all, but to seek God's ways. Trust in God and each other -- sharing in a spirit of mutual respect, humility, gratitude, joy and love. These are basic to our baptismal covenant. And as I think about it, the fruit of the Spirit that St. Paul mentioned come to mind -- love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, endurance, and self-control.

I suppose they could be summed up in **love**. What Jesus said to us was "How can you say that you love God, whom you haven't seen, if you don't love your neighbor, whom you have seen?" As Paul said, loosely translated of course, is no matter how much outreach you do, no matter how liturgically correct you try to be, no matter how doctrinally orthodox you are, or how hard you try to help others experience God the way you have, if you don't love you're missing the point. "Love is patient and kind. It does not envy or boast. It is not proud. It is not rude. It does not seek its own way. It is not easily angered. It keeps no records of wrongs." Love is the goal -- love for God and for one another. Our love shows that Christ is alive among His people and that they want to follow His lead. So trust God, follow the leadership of Jesus Christ, and love one another. The Christian Faith -- the life of discipleship -- is that simple and that demanding.

I'm confident in God's ability to do ever more amazing things among His people at St. Paul's and in your ability to grow stronger in Christ all the time. My prayer is that God will add even more of the fruit of the Spirit to the amazing gifts and marvelous attributes that St. Paul's already has. I'll continue to pray for God to increase the attributes of Christ's Spirit at St. Paul's. May God grant you the grace to discern and follow His call to be who He wants you to be.

Love and Peace in Christ, *Phil*



**From the Director of Music and Liturgy**

The Parish Choir will be offering Choral Evensong on The Feast of Pentecost, May 23 at 5:00pm in the Old Narragansett Church. We will be singing music of English Tudor composer Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625). The Parish Choir will sing a modern setting of the Nicene Creed by Charles Rus (b. 1960) for the morning Liturgy. This will also be "Youth Sunday," so we will be involving some of our very talented youth musicians to share their talents. For Easter VI, May 9, the Parish Choir will be singing William Mathias' (1934-1992) setting of a wonderful text by the mystic Julian of Norwich (1342-c. 1416). Julian's saint's day is celebrated May 8 in the Episcopal Church. Her work "Revelations of Divine Love" (or showings) is generally considered one of the most remarkable documents in medieval religious experience.

Many thanks to the Youth Choir of St. Paul's Wickford, Rozanne Fuller, Director, and the other RSCM youth choirs of RI for participating in the annual RSCM Diocesan Evensong. This year the service took place at St. Martin's Church in Providence. The choir did a great job working together under the able leadership of Michael Kleinschmidt of Trinity Church, Boston.

St. Paul's Youth and Children's Choirs will join forces to sing their annual concert and sing-along at St. Elizabeth's Home May 19 at 4:30 PM followed by our Hilltop Creamery ice cream party! Thank you to all the families for your support and the directors, Nancy Sherman, Alicia Cranston, and Rozanne Fuller for a great year!

Peace,  
*Mark*

**A Grateful Good-Bye**

All those wishing to contribute to a Good-Bye gift for the Tierneys may make checks out to: **Tierney Farewell Gift** and bring them or cash donations to the Church office.



**A picture is worth...**

The only photograph [photographer] Yousaf Karsh ever took of a person's back was of Pablo Casals [playing his cello] in a small French abbey in 1954....Karsh was so enthralled by the music that he says he almost forgot why he was there. He took his portrait of Casals with the little bald-headed man bent over his cello, frozen in time against the plain stone wall of that chapel.



Years later, when the portrait was on exhibition in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, another old, bald-headed man came day after day and stood for long moments at a time in front of the portrait. The curator of the museum noticed him and, when his curiosity got the best of him, went over, tapped the man on the shoulder and asked him why he stood so long before the picture. The old man, with obvious irritation, turned to the curator and said, 'Hush, young man! Can't you see I'm listening to the music!'

...The church ought to present a picture to the world of what God wants the world to be....Our music will then permeate the whole of life, and we will hasten the day when the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdom of our Lord and Christ, who will reign forever and ever.

-Maxie D. Dunnam in *The Christian Way*



### **The Mission**

It is April 15, the eve of the long-awaited mission to the Dominican Republic. Everyone is excited. The 18 youths and many of their parents have gathered at the

Parish House with luggage and passports. It is time to weigh in, to make certain that all of our bags weigh less than fifty pounds. It is also time to pack extra bags with school supplies for the children at the Episcopal school, which serves the barrios of El Pedrigal. Paul Knott's senior project at NKHS is to collect, transport and distribute the supplies to Transfiguration School. It is a time of excitement and a bit of anxious hustle and bustle.

We leave tomorrow evening. At 5 pm we will gather for last minute questions and instructions. The kids, their parents, and the mission leaders will do our last minute shifting of belongings. We will talk. We will pray together. We will share Communion. We will pack everything onto the bus, say our farewells, and begin the ride to JFK in NYC. From there we will check in to Jet Blue for our midnight flight to Santiago, DR. We will arrive before 4 AM, and will be met by buses from Campo Transfiguracion, led by Pablo (the camp property manager) and Deacon Carlos (the camp director). And then we will head to our destination.

As it stands we are planning to finish building a dormitory on site. We will be doing lots of work, praying, playing, and sharing with each other and the kids of the barrios. That is all I can say about it, right now, since the deadline for this newsletter is midway through our mission. You will hear all about it, after we return, at the Mission Forum and on Youth Sunday. Until then, please keep all of us in your prayers.

### **Confirmation**

Members of this year's Confirmation Class will be confirmed by Bishop Wolf on Saturday, **May 1<sup>st</sup>**, at 10 AM in the Cathedral. Please pray for them to have a meaningful spiritual experience at their confirmation.

### **Mission Forum**

There will be a presentation about the St. Paul's Youth Mission to the Dominican Republic on Sunday, **May 2<sup>nd</sup>**, at 10:45 AM in the Parish Hall. The missionaries will share their photos, memories and experiences with parishioners at that time. Everyone is welcome to join us. Please show your support for the teens by coming to the Mission Forum. It should be very informative and entertaining.

~God's Peace,

*Trish*

### **MSY Spring Fling**

Are you in Middle School, a parent of a MSY member, or Sunday School teacher who would be interested in helping put together a MSY Spring Fling Music Fest on Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>? If so, please contact Trish at the Parish office (294-4357 x105 or youth@stpaulswickford.org).

### **Youth Sunday**

Sunday, **May 23<sup>rd</sup>**, will be Youth Sunday. Beside members of the High School Youth Group offering the sermon at the 5:15 service on Saturday and at the 9:30 service on Sunday, teens and members of the Emmaus Class will lead the 9:30 service. The Emmaus kids will receive their first Communion as a group and will receive a Bible to mark the occasion. We will recognize the new Confirmands and give them Prayer Books to mark the occasion. We will also recognize the missionaries. There will be a reception in the Parish hall after the service. Come and support our wonderful St. Paul's kids.

### **Scholarship Sunday**

June 6<sup>th</sup> will be Scholarship Sunday. We will be celebrating the upcoming graduation of our high school seniors. And we will also be giving scholarships from last year's Art Festival proceeds to students from the parish who will be continuing their education. Please remember to get a scholarship application from the parish office and return it by May 14<sup>th</sup>. Contact Trish if you have any questions (294-4357 x105 or [youth@stpaulswickford.org](mailto:youth@stpaulswickford.org)).

## Sunday School News



May is upon us, and with it comes the celebration of youth in our Parish. It's an exciting time; we celebrate the talents and spirituality of the young people of St. Paul's. Not only do they represent the future of our church, they show us the vibrant spirit that is alive here at St. Paul's. Come worship with the children and teens on Youth Sunday, May 23 at the 9:30 service. During these times when one worries about the future here in R.I., this service shows that the future is bright here in North Kingstown. We'll celebrate, not only the various musical talents of our young members, but also the teen missionaries, the confirmation class, and the fifth grade Emmaus class. So come join us for this moving spiritual celebration; it is sure to lift your spirits.

As the year draws to a close, I would again like to thank all the teachers who made it a very successful year. We had 140 students enrolled in classes this year. Wonderfully, these students came week after week and really seemed to enjoy their classes. I've heard many stories from parents who heard "church songs" being sung on playgrounds, chairlifts, and at the beach. What a great way to share God's message through the beautiful voices of the youth. Of course, a huge thank-you is given to Kevin O'Connor for sharing his musical talents with us on Sunday mornings. I can't thank the teachers enough for sharing their time and talents with these great children- Rini George-Kutty, Linda Kesner, Bonnie Smith, Kathy Bellows, Cindy Hempstead, Alice Szrom, Kelli Gillis, Connie Calabrese, Kevin O'Connor, Kathy Kuiper, Sarah LeBlanc, Sandra Tierney, Laura Martorelli, Susie Leahy, Sheryl MacDougall-Fusco, Jane Winter, Beth and Pete Bergwall, Jayne McBride, Laurie DeRuosi, and Jean Whatmough. You guys are awesome.

If anyone is interested in teaching next year, please let me know. No experience is necessary, just a love of children and the desire to teach them about God. We provide curriculum and

pair new teachers with more experienced ones. We like to have three teachers per grade; this allows for more flexible scheduling for the teachers to attend services. If you would like to help out, please feel free to contact me at home 294-9908. It's a wonderful experience. I've done it for 13 years and recommend it highly. It is a great way to grow spiritually, without even knowing it, because you are having so much fun.

God Bless,

*Lori*

### Important Sunday School Dates

- May 2** Regular Sunday school, Teen Mission Trip Forum
- May 9** Regular Sunday school, Fifth grade baking bread- 9:30 Parish Hall
- May 16** Regular Sunday school, spring garden clean up - Fifth grade mandatory clergy led class
- May 22** Youth Sunday Rehearsal, 9-10:30 am - mandatory for all youth Sunday participants.
- May 23** Youth Sunday, 9:30am service. Participants in service need to arrive 9:15 am. This will be followed by a reception in honor of the confirmation class and fifth grade Emmaus class.





Nursery School  
News

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

**Three Year Old**

**News:** For the month of April, the color was blue and the shape was the oval. Our three's learned about spring, birds, caterpillars, butterflies, April showers, and ocean life. They collaged, made rain sticks, drew with wet chalk and water colored. The three's had a visit from the Audubon Society which presented "The Very Hungry Caterpillar". They will continue to work on a very special Mothers Day Surprise and a Mother's Day Tea during the month of May.

**Four Year Old News:** The four year olds spent the first week in April finishing up our Easter unit. We enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt and party. The next two weeks we continued learning about the changes that take place in the springtime as part of our Signs of Spring unit. We learned about insects, spring animals, plants and seeds. After spring break we talked about Earth Day. We participated in a number of hands-on activities to promote ways we can help the environment. We talked about recycling and worked on a project that recycled boxes.

During the flood last month, the parish hall had some water come into its first floor where the nursery school is located. With the help of a handful of people we were able to get things up and dry within 48 hours. I would like to thank Paul Sardelli, Bill Healy, Lori Lamb, the Brew family, the Sironen family, my teachers, my husband Joe and my son Joey for all their help and hard work. We were very lucky and had very little damage to supplies and equipment.

God Bless,  
*Linda*

Seven things you'll never regret

1. Feeling reverence for your Maker.
2. Showing kindness to an aged person.
3. Destroying a letter — or not sending an e-mail — written in anger.
4. Offering an apology that saves a friendship.
5. Stopping gossip that could wreck a reputation.
6. Taking time to show loved ones consideration.
7. Accepting the judgment of God on any question.





## Ministry Team Highlight

**Stewardship Team – To help us be stronger stewards of God’s resources.**

**John Leite 294-6846**

Coordinates the resources of the parish.

- Coordinates with pledge campaign and oversees the presentation to the parish
- Develops a plan to make the Church more environmentally responsible
- Coordinates with the Properties and Finance Teams.
- Coordinates and organizes the presentation and assignment of volunteer opportunities in the parish

Please contact John if you would like to know more about this Team’s work or feel called to volunteer.

### Altar Guild

St. Paul’s Altar Guild members prepare the Church for all worship services, including weddings and funerals. They care for the sacred vessels, altar linens and altar area in a reverent and loving manner. Many hours are devoted to preparing the Church for Christmas and Easter. Two new members are currently in training for this ministry. Additional members are welcomed, so please call Emily McKenney at 294-3234 if you are interested. Thanks to all the members for their faithful service to this ministry.

### Soup Kitchen

On April 3, 2010, a beautiful group of volunteers from St. Paul helped serve an Easter Dinner of ham, homemade macaroni and cheese, broccoli, bread and brownies to the grateful patrons of the Epiphany Soup Kitchen at our beautiful new location at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church on Brown University’s campus in Providence. We had roses on the tables, relaxing music in the hall, and a clothing give away for the patrons of our soup kitchen. The festive volunteers were Susan Rylander, Ginny Bourne (Sue’s mom), Ana DiBello, Tessa Egan and Tina Egan. Thank you volunteers!!

Please send Tina an email at [cegan19@gmail.com](mailto:cegan19@gmail.com) to get involved with the soup kitchen or to make a return appearance at the ESK.

THANK YOU

### Community Meals

St. Paul’s participation in the Sunday ecumenical meal program helped to provide over 200 hot meals as well as time for prayer and fellowship to people in the community over the winter months. Team members were able to serve others and had a chance to work with people from other North Kingstown churches. Information on how to be involved in the activity will be forthcoming in the summer/early fall.

Thanks to all who made this ministry possible!



### Belles and Beaus Take Note

Calling all Seniors! Watch the Sunday bulletins and St. Paul’s website for information on an upcoming Belles and Beaus luncheon. Date to be determined soon. Get ready to party!

# St Paul's Scholarship Fund

## *Instructions and Application Form*

\*Applicants must be actively involved parishioners of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The applicant must be seeking admission, already accepted, or currently enrolled at an accredited institution of higher learning.

\*The scholarship is intended for people with financial need.

### Information and Requirements

1. Each applicant must prepare a written statement describing his or her most meaningful involvement(s) in St. Paul's Church. Also, please briefly explain other activities that have shaped your life thus far and influenced your plans for the future.
2. If you wish to include any letters of recommendation, please attach them to this application.
3. The application and written statement must be completed in full and returned by May 14, 2010 to:

St. Paul's Scholarship Fund Committee  
55 Main Street  
North Kingstown, RI 02852

### **St. Paul's Scholarship Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of school currently attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of siblings	Age	School and Grade
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\_\_\_\_\_

To which universities, colleges or schools have you applied and/or been accepted?

\_\_\_\_\_

Which do you plan to attend? \_\_\_\_\_

## THOUGHTS ON MEMORIAL DAY

### The birth of Mother's Day



Anna M. Jarvis (1864-1948) loved her mother dearly. It was Miss Jarvis who first suggested a national day to honor all mothers.

At a memorial service for her mother on May 10, 1908, Anna gave a carnation, her mother's favorite flower, to each person in attendance. Within a few years, the idea to honor mothers gained popularity, and Mother's Day was soon observed annually in many large cities of the United States.

On May 9, 1914, by an act of Congress, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day. He established the day as a time for "public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country." By then, it had become customary to wear white carnations in honor of departed mothers and red carnations to honor the living. The custom continues to this day.

The anthropologist and naturalist, Loren Eiseley, who died in 1977, wanted this epitaph for his wife and himself: "We loved the earth, but could not stay."

No one can stay, of course. We all are moving inexorably toward that final day when "the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over, and our work is done" (Book of Common Prayer).

This Memorial Day we particularly remember the men and women who have perished in war, giving the ultimate sacrifice to make the world a better place. They too "loved the earth, but could not stay." May God hasten the day when we can solve our disputes peacefully.

We also remember all our loved ones whose stay on Earth is over. Christians believe that death does not end all. We trust that the God who made us will provide for us when our bodies can no longer sustain us.

A memorial stone on the campus of the College of Wooster in Ohio, placed there by a class many years ago, reads:

**United in time  
Divided in time  
To be reunited  
When time shall be no more.**

That is a hope we can have for ourselves, our loved ones and those who sacrificed all.