

# St. Paul's Episcopal Church



A Monthly Newsletter

November 2011

## 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.



November 19th, we recognize Elizabeth of Hungary

Princess And Philanthropist (19 NOV 1231)

The numerous "St. Elizabeth's Hospitals" throughout the world are for the most part named, not for the Biblical Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, but for this princess of Hungary. She was concerned for the relief of the poor and the sick, and with her husband's consent she used her dowry money for their relief. During a famine and epidemic in 1226, while her husband was away in Italy, she sold her jewels and established a hospital where she nursed the sick, and opened the royal granaries to feed the hungry. After her husband's death in 1227, her in-laws, who opposed her "extravagances," expelled her from Wartburg. Finally an arrangement was negotiated with them that gave her a stipend. She became a Franciscan tertiary (lay associate) and devoted the remainder of her life to nursing and charity. She sewed garments to clothe the poor, and went fishing to feed them.

*From the  
Interim Rector*



*Our father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread;  
And forgive us our sins  
As we forgive those who sin against us;  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power  
And the glory forever and ever.  
AMEN.*

Dear Friends,

The most familiar of prayers is the Lord's Prayer. It is anchored in our hearts and minds at a level that endures. I have been with individuals seemingly lost in a cloud of illness or dementia who emerge from their silence to join me in reciting that prayer when I have offered it in their hearing.

It is recorded in the gospels that when Jesus was asked by his disciples to teach them how to pray, he taught them this concise prayer (see Matthew chapter 6 and Luke chapter 11). We know, of course, that Jesus did not teach this prayer in English, and so what we have learned is an English rendering of what is recorded in the Greek manuscripts.

Jesus did not speak English or Greek: he probably spoke most often in Aramaic, and less often in Hebrew. That being the case, another way to enter into the prayer life introduced to the disciples by Jesus is to get closer to the original Aramaic words that they heard and learned.

Exploring the Lord's prayer in Aramaic will be an option at our "Wednesday Night Live" Advent series (which is the subject of another article in this month's Communicant). To guide us in this exploration we will be reading from Prayers of the

Cosmos, a book by Neil Douglas Klotz that offers insights into the depth of meaning conveyed to Jesus' disciples as they heard Jesus speak to them in their native language. One product of this study is the possibility that you will have a new "translation" of the Lord's prayer that speaks more deeply to your life and circumstances, and connects you more profoundly to the living God.

A limited number of copies of this book are available through the church office at a cost of \$13.00—and our adult education budget makes it possible for us to make these available without charge to those who cannot afford to pay. Used and new copies are available through Amazon.com and other online distributors at a reduced price as well. I commend "Wednesday Night Live in Advent" to you and pray that we will all be prepared in heart and soul and mind for the coming of the Kingdom of God.

Peace.

*David+*

\*\*\*\*\*



"But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

Matthew 6: 6

\*\*\*\*\*

*From the  
Assistant Rector*



With Halloween over the youth group returns to a more normal schedule of one meeting for high school students, one for middle school and one fun activity for the month. The Middle

School Youth will be gathering on November 13th from 5-7 to watch a movie and have dinner together. The high school youth will gather on the 27th from 5-6 for some discussion and time to relax and have fun. On November 20th we're going to have a game night for both Middle and High School; we'll have board games, cards, and with a cooperative projector, Wii on the wall (if not it'll be on a TV), also something good for dinner. We will also continue the weekly Wednesday Evening Prayer meetings from 5:30-7:00 for both Middle and High School with one slight change-- we will not be meeting on the third Wednesday of the month. I know this might get a little confusing, but after Diocesan Convention this month, I will likely be serving on Diocesan Council which meets on the third Wednesday of the month.

The High School Youth will be taking a mission trip to Maryland this summer, the week beginning July 22, working with a place called Meeting Ground. On November 13th we will have a meeting at 11:30 in the Guild Room to answer any questions and get an idea of who is interested in attending. If you are interested in the trip but cannot make that meeting, please be in contact with me before hand. This meeting is for parents and youth who are interested as well as anyone interested in coming along as a chaperone.

- 11/13- Mission Trip Meeting 11:30-12:30
- 11/13- Middle School Movie Night 5-7
- 11/20- Game Night 4:30-7:00
- 11/27- High School Youth Group 5-6
- 12/4- Kingstown Bowl 5-7

Yours in Christ,  
*Patrick*



## From the Director of Music, Organist, and Choirmaster

St. Paul's Parish Choir had a great team and skill building day at St. Matthew's Church in Jamestown October 1. Ms. Kathyne Jennings from Brown University led us in a participatory choral workshop with many helpful demonstrations on breath control and vowel placement. The choir enjoyed continuing the conversation over lunch.

Thank you to the hospitality team Leslie Kershaw, Jackie Gildersleeve and Ann Waring for providing an elegant and delicious reception following the Michaelmas Evensong. We were privileged to experience Patrick's first Evensong as officiant. Thank you Patrick! Kudos to soloists Marc Donnelly (choral alum), Camilla deRochembeau, and Nancy Shanahan.

For the Feast of All Saints', November 6, The Parish Choir will offer the beautiful motet "Lux aeterna" from John Rutter's Requiem as well as the "Lacrimosa" from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Requiem.

You are invited to attend THE FESTIVAL OF ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS: SUNDAY DECEMBER 11 at 4:00pm St. Paul's Church. Traditional readings and music for the Advent season will be offered with all choirs participating and guest instrumentalists. The service will be followed by a reception.

St. Paul's Youth Choir is off to a great start thanks to our new choral intern Bridget Nixon, a music concentrator at Brown University. Our Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) workbooks have arrived, and I hear choristers at Sunday rehearsal busily learning intervals, key signatures, and how to count rhythms. The Bishop of Rhode Island has invited the RSCM Youth Choirs of RI to sing for the RI Diocesan Convention on Nov. 11. We are pleased that we will be sending several choristers to represent St. Paul's. To have your child participate in the youth choir, please contact me at 294-4357, ext. 106 or at coffee hour. Christmas is coming, and we are still welcoming new members!

Thank you for your continued support of the music ministry at St. Paul's.

Peace,

*Mark*



Welcome to St. Paul's Sunday School. Please remember that it is never too late to register; just join us on Sunday mornings during the 9:30 am service. Sunday School is open to all children age three and above. Registration cards are available on the children's snack table before and after the service. The high school class takes place after the service in the Belden Room. This class is open to all high school students, especially teens in tenth grade or older who are wishing to be confirmed.

In addition to our weekly lessons, the Sunday school has an active community service program. Each month we try to educate the children on a different way in which they can follow God's teaching and help the world around them. In October, the children learned about Habitat for Humanity. First we learned about the importance of the program and then, we participated in one of our favorite projects of the year- we painted pumpkins to help decorate for the sloppy- joe fundraiser dinner. The kids put so much effort into this project; some children stayed after class in order to get their pumpkin "just right". We hope everyone who attended the dinner got to enjoy the beauty of these pumpkins. Thank you to Mimi Dyer for setting this up for the children. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you also to all the teachers, teens and parents who helped out that day and to Bill for all your hard work with the "great pumpkin move". We couldn't do it without all of you.

We sometimes wonder if our children listen and understand all that we are teaching them. This goes for at home and during our classes. Recently, I had a student come up to me with a bag full of money that she wanted to give to the offering. She told me that she had held a lemonade stand during the summer and she wanted to donate all the proceeds to charity. In an age when our youth are bombarded with images of material things, she took money she worked for and gave it to those in need. I think she's hearing the message. She is not the only student who has done wonderful things; we have had students raise money in their school for projects they learned about here, like school supplies and tuition for the Dominican Republic, hurricane relief

in Haiti, Pennies for Peace in Central Asia. We try to emphasize the importance of helping others. It could be raising money for a project or simply giving of your time and talents, such as painting the pumpkins for the Habitat for Humanity dinner. Rich or poor, it doesn't matter; we can all help our neighbors. St. Paul's has an amazing group of children and youth here. I feel blessed to know them.

This past month we had a wonderful tour of the Old Narragansett Church led by Janet Pyne. The children really were interested in learning about how our ancestors worshipped here 300 years ago. There were lots of questions, but the children were grateful to return to the warm and comfortable Parish Hall. We thank Janet for leading us on this tour. Also scheduled in October is a forum by Bishop Abraham Nhial of South Sudan. We are looking forward to this exciting event. We'll keep you posted on how it went and on future events as they come up.

Pageant sign-ups are around the corner. Hard to believe it is almost that time. In late November, keep an eye out for flyers and additional information as it becomes available. We are hoping to have a lot of participation in this annual event on Christmas Eve. Stay tuned. Come join the fun and remember friends are always welcome.

**Important Sunday School Dates**

**November 27** Community Worship Sunday (Thanksgiving Weekend), all other Sundays in November are Regular Sunday School.

*Lori*

\*\*\*\*\*



**Daylight Savings Time ends November, 6th. Adjust your clocks, etc. accordingly**

\*\*\*\*\*



News

**St. Paul's "Weekday"**  
**Nursery School**

This past summer St. Paul's Nursery School, (SPNS), joined The National Association of Episcopal Schools, (NAES) in an effort to improve our church-school relations and to expand and improve our school "governing" board.

"The National Association of Episcopal Schools is an independently incorporated, voluntary membership organization that supports, serves and advocates for the vital work and ministry of those who serve over 1,200 schools, Early Childhood Education programs and school establishment efforts, and their sponsoring institutions, throughout The Episcopal Church. NAES is the only pre-collegiate educational association that is both national in scope and Episcopal in character. As such, it is the national voice of Episcopal schools to The Episcopal Church, the education community, and the world."

"Episcopal schools have been established as ecumenical and diverse ministries of educational and human formation for people of all faiths and backgrounds. Episcopal schools are populated by a rich variety of human beings, from increasingly diverse religious, cultural and economic backgrounds. In fact, the intentional pluralism of most Episcopal Schools is a hallmark of their missions. It is also a distinguishing characteristic of these schools that they seek to integrate religious and spiritual formation into the overall curriculum and life of each school community. Episcopal schools are clear, yet graceful, about how they articulate and express their basic identities, especially in their religious curricula and traditions. They invite all who attend and work in them – Episcopalians and non-Episcopalians, Christians and non-Christians, people of no faith tradition –both to seek clarity about their own beliefs and religions and to honor those traditions more fully and faithfully in their own lives. Above all, Episcopal schools exist not merely to educate, but to demonstrate and proclaim the unique worth and beauty of all human beings as creations of a loving, empowering God."

**Did You Know That:**

\* Over 1,000 parishes and cathedrals in The Episcopal Church have a school. Of these schools, over 600 are Early Childhood Education Programs serving our youngest students as part of their ministry.

\* Since 1990, over 100 Episcopal Schools and Early Childhood Education programs have opened their doors, a 29% increase.

\* On average, about 25% of the students in Episcopal schools are Episcopalians, meaning our schools serve a large number of students from other Christian denominations, non-Christian traditions or no formal faith background.

We hope this new alliance with NAES will provide the support and guidance that we will need to progress to the next level. We are still looking for individuals who would like to be part of this school board and help us to continue to move forward.

God Bless,  
*Linda* ☺

\*\*\*\*\*

**Ladies Gathering**

Attention Ladies of St. Paul's – Mark your calendars for a "get together" on the first Wednesday of each month from 11:00 am- to 1:00 pm. Bring your lunch, your thoughts, and ideas for any special projects you would like to undertake or just come for a little while to chat and get better acquainted. The dates for the remainder of this year are: November 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 7<sup>th</sup>. Any questions – please call Betty Ann Taylor at 423-0120.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Looking for Finance Committee Members**

St. Paul's Finance Committee oversees the monetary aspects of the parish and makes recommendations to the Vestry, working closely with the Senior Warden and the Treasurer. If you are number-friendly and can attend a one hour meeting at 6:00 pm on the third Tuesday of the month, we need you! Please be in touch with Ray Jorgensen at 465-6066. Thanks.

★ ★ ★  
 ★ ★ ★  
**WEDNESDAY**  
 ★ **NIGHT** ★  
**Live in Advent**

---

**Wednesday Night Live in Advent**

You are invited to mark your calendars and plan to attend Wednesday Night Live in Advent, being held November 30, and December 7 and 14. Come each Wednesday or as many of the Wednesdays as you can come for the entire evening or for any part of it.

The schedule is as follows:

- 5:30 p.m. Eucharist in the chapel
- 6:00 p.m. Potluck supper in the Parish Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Study
- 8:00 p.m. Closing Prayers and Dismissal

**What's to eat?**

You are invited to bring your favorite salad or main dish sufficient to feed yourself (or your family) and two others. The youth group will provide set-ups (cups, plates and napkins), drinks and desserts each of the evenings. We will have “emergency” food on hand to make sure everyone has enough... so please come even if you can't bring something to share. The Youth Group will be inviting cash donations in response to the drink and dessert offerings to help underwrite their spring mission trip.

**What's to study?**

Look to the Interim Rector's article for one study about the Lord's Prayer being offered, and others are in the planning stages, so be on the look-out for announcements of additional classes being offered at Wednesday Night Live in Advent.

**Christian Action Notes**

In September, we allocated \$500 to the Salvation Army with the request that it be directed to hurricane and flood relief efforts. One of our members, Chris Waters, has witnessed their good work after Hurricane Irene in North Carolina. Of course flooding on the east coast, New York and Vermont has created needs in those areas as well. In addition, we received an appeal from South Providence Neighborhood Ministries which is cashed strapped due to increasing need and decreasing funds in these tough economic times. We supported them with \$500.

In October, we designated \$500 each to the RI Community Food Bank and The North Kingstown Community Food Bank.

This year, St Paul's will man the **Salvation Army kettle** in front of Dave's on Saturday, December 10 from 10:30-3:30. If you would like to participate in this holiday tradition, please contact **Kathleen Godley at 294-1206** or [kg88@verizon.net](mailto:kg88@verizon.net). Our current committee includes Peggy Sagnella, Emily McKenney, Thomasine Manickas, Chris Waters, Ninni Jacob and myself. We meet the second Wednesday of each month at 7:45 and welcome new members. Moreover, if you have thoughts about worthy organizations you'd like St. Paul's to support, feel free to contact any one of us!  
 Kathleen Godley

\*\*\*\*\*

“I don't want the peace that passes understanding. I want the understanding that brings peace.”

Helen Keller

\*\*\*\*\*



## A Message from the Annual Pledge Team:

In this time of economic uncertainty it is easy to behave from a place of scarcity. We may have concerns about our job security, our day to day bills, funding our children's education, our retirement. Certainly the coming holiday season, while normally a time of joy and celebration, can feel like a time of tension and stress. Fear of the unknown, fear of the uncontrollable, fear of not having enough can overwhelm us. As Christians, however, we have a very powerful tool for combating this fear, for feeling secure in a challenging world. We have the knowledge of God's unconditional love. We have the gift of Jesus Christ. We can be at ease knowing that God's love flows through us at all times and in all circumstances. His abundant love is plentiful. Can we orient our perspective to live and behave from a place of plenty? Can we do this even in the face of uncertainty and challenge?

In many ways, as the community of St. Paul's, we do. We support each other in times of sadness and stress, thinking more of the other than of ourselves. We give of our time and resources to organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and the Food Pantry. We spend hours singing, worshipping and praying together. We have supported this faith community through our generosity for many, many years. Our gifts and our work together create the "plenty" that we experience here at St. Paul's. We are truly a generous and loving community.

As this pledge season approaches - a season in which many of us face uncertainty and challenge - we ask that you take the following questions into your hearts and prayers: Can we have faith that God will provide us with all that we truly need? Can we give without fear that there won't be enough? Can we give from a place of plenty?

Many Blessings,  
Tabitha Jorgensen on behalf of the Annual Pledge Team

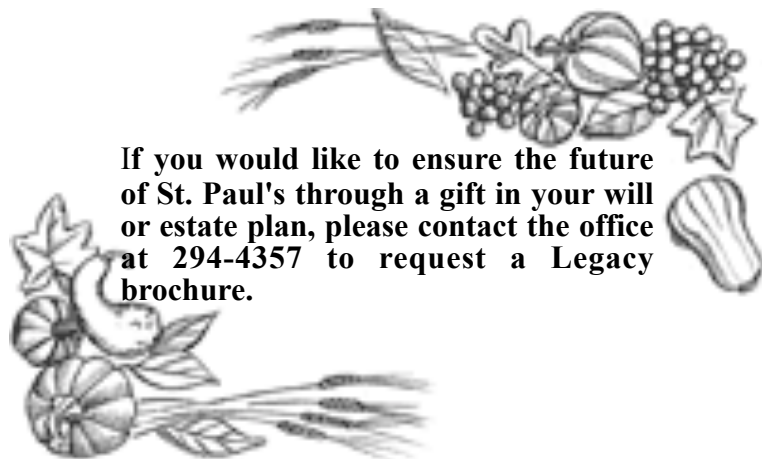
**James 2:14-26.** *So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.*

Saint Paul taught that we are made right with God through faith, not through good works. If what we have here is a rejoinder from James to Paul, then we must say that James misunderstood Paul. Paul never thought of faith as mere intellectual adherence to orthodox doctrine, as James seems to suggest. For Paul, faith is total self-giving to God. If Paul is the object of James's castigation in this passage, we must enter a plea of "not guilty" for Paul.

However, a large army of Christians down through the ages, and including the present, *are* guilty as charged in James's indictment: guilty of the great unconscious heresy of substituting creed for deed.

George Bernard Shaw said that a person's real creed is that body of beliefs on which he habitually acts. Let us examine our actual behavior, as seen in our thoughts, words, and deeds, to see what beliefs our behavior does in fact express. There may have to be some changes made if Christ is to be the basis of our behavior. We truly believe in Christ when his Lordship is manifest not only in our creedal profession but in our habitual actions. (1972)

Forward Day by Day - November, 2010



**If you would like to ensure the future of St. Paul's through a gift in your will or estate plan, please contact the office at 294-4357 to request a Legacy brochure.**

## Ministry Discernment Process

### Discernment Program

The Diocesan Discernment Program offered by the Commission on Ministry in the Diocese of Rhode Island invites participants into a process which is designed to help them discern what God is calling them to at this time in their life. With the support of their parish and their priest, they will be led through a structured program that will teach them the tools of discernment.

The purpose of the Discernment program is to assist an individual in a process of discerning a call to either Lay or Ordained Ministry in the Episcopal Church. It is a ten month program consisting of Monthly meetings on topics such as the mystery of prayer, adventures in awareness, framing the question, and the faces of ministry.

### The Monthly Meetings Include:

- An in depth look at prayer itself and the different forms it can take.
- Time for self reflection.
- The development of a spiritual time line and spiritual autobiography.
- The opportunity to develop personal questions which will serve to focus your discernment.
- Increased self awareness and use of the Myers-Briggs Personality Indicator.
- Opportunities to hear the stories of invited guests both lay and ordained who speak of their own experience and particular call to ministry.
- July and August allow for a time of Self Directed Spiritual Exploration. Perhaps you will visit other churches, and talk with persons who share your particular ministry or passion.
- Finally, September brings you and all to the time for evaluation, and planning for what comes next. At this point the discerner will have an opportunity to look at programs for Lay Ministry or to begin the process that may lead towards Ordination in the Diocese of RI, by gathering a small team of persons who will be trained using the style described in "Listening Hearts, Discerning a Call in Community" with whom your process will continue.

The Introductory Session of this year's process will be held on Saturday, November 19, 2011 at the Diocesan Resource Center located in the Annex building next to the Diocesan office building, 275 North Main Street in Providence for 9:30 to 11:30 am. For this session anyone who is interested in the Discernment Process along with his/her spouse or partner and the Rector (or in the absence of the Rector, the Senior Warden) are invited to attend to support a person spiritually on the discernment journey. To ensure that we can offer the discernment program at least four persons must register at this session for the 2011-2012 program. All interested are asked to respond to: The Rev. Alcide Barnaby, Jr. by Friday, November 4, 2011 (401-274-4109 or [albarnaby@verizon.net](mailto:albarnaby@verizon.net))

\*\*\*\*\*

### Jammies for Kids

**Can you help out a child in need this fall?** The "Jammie Grammie" invites you to donate **new** winter pajamas to be distributed to children and teens in many neighboring towns from Groton through South County. If you would like to help out, we will be collecting new pairs of pajamas in any child sizes-infant through high school age (teens like lounge pants and Ts). Collection boxes will be available in the Narthex and Parish Hall until Thanksgiving.

Thanks for your generosity.

### Meditation Garden Needs TLC

The Meditation Garden (entered from Washington Street) is a serene, peaceful place to relax, pray and enjoy the beauty and tranquility of the space. To keep it beautiful requires periodic weeding, pruning, and, now, a fall cleanup. We need volunteers to help at an upcoming work party or to "adopt" a section of the garden to maintain on your own time schedule. No gardening knowledge is required – Master Gardener, Linda Sollitto and others will show you what to do and when to do it. Please contact Barbara Dawson at 295-5057 or [dawscm@cox.net](mailto:dawscm@cox.net) if you are interested in joining a work party or working on your own now and/or next spring.