

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Colossians 3:14



And over all
these virtues put on
LOVE, which binds
them all together
in perfect unity.

A Monthly Newsletter

July and August 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.

Nature's Creed

I believe in the brook as it wanders from hillside into glade;
I believe in the breeze as it whispers when evening shadows fade.
I believe in the roar of the river as it dashes from high cascade;
I believe in the cry of the tempest amid the thunder's cannonade.
I believe in the light of shining stars; I believe in the sun and the moon;
I believe in the flash of lightning; I believe in the night-bird's croon.
I believe in the faith of flowers; I believe in the rock and sod;
For in all of these appeareth clear the handiwork of God.

—Anonymous

*Many waters
cannot quench love;
rivers cannot wash
it away.*



©Solomon 8:7

Rector's Reflections: Prune



Receiving God's Kingdom as Child

Do you remember the time when some people brought their children to Jesus for His blessing? His friends and disciples tried to prevent it. I guess they were trying to protect Jesus from the onslaught because they thought that He was busy enough and had more important things to do. Often Jesus' disciples back then and throughout history, thought that they knew best how to deal with people "for Jesus," but He usually had a much more gracious point of view. So, in essence, Jesus said, "Hey, don't stop those kids! The Kingdom of God belongs to them. Unless you receive the Kingdom of God like a little child, you can't enter into it." That sounds harsh; as if Jesus was saying you can't go to heaven unless you become childish. It's the same sort of thing that stumped Nicodemus, when he asked, "How can a person be born when he's old?" But I don't think that Jesus was talking about going to heaven or about literally becoming a child.

Let me share a story with you to illustrate exactly what I think Jesus meant. It's a true story, and it comes from Emily McKenney. This is what happened. Emily was trying to prepare for the Altar Guild dinner, which was to be at her home. She had her grandchildren, Megan and Sean, in tow. Ah, but Sean had a different objective in mind, and Megan was looking out for her little brother's need. You see, he had a project to do for school - he needed to find a horseshoe crab. Alas, horseshoe crabs are in short supply on Rhode Island beaches in May (they come ashore later in the summer). But Emily's grandkids were bound and determined to find a horseshoe crab. They both told Emily that they had prayed about it (something they'd learned at St. Paul's, no doubt)

and they were sure that God would provide Sean with a horseshoe crab for his school project. So, good naturedly, Emily took them to Plum Beach, knowing that there would never be any horseshoe crabs there at that time of year. She was right, of course.

Later, as she drove them home, the kids begged Emily to stop at the Town Beach along the way. Now Emily knew that if there were no horseshoe crabs to be found at Plum Beach in May it would be impossible to find one at Town Beach, since, after all, there aren't even shells on that beach, let alone horseshoe crabs in the month of May. But the kids reiterated that they had prayed about it, and they were sure that God would provide a horseshoe crab for Sean's project. Softy that she is, Emily walked them along Town Beach. Megan ran ahead to the far end of the beach and soon called out, "I found one!" Sure enough, when Emily and Sean got to the spot, they looked at where Megan was pointing and spied a big, old horseshoe crab. The problem was that it was out under a few feet of cold, May water. The kids started to motion to it with their fingers to come to them, and, behold, it started to move slowly toward the beach. Emily sent them to the car to get a net, while she kept her eyes on the critter. They left Emily with strict instruction to keep beckoning to the crab with her fingers. When the kids left, the crab nestled itself under a rock. When Sean and Megan returned, they asked Emily if she had motioned to it the right way. Then they started in again and motioned to it with their fingers to come to shore. And so it did. Inch by inch and foot by foot it slowly crawled to shore. And so, in the tale of the great quest for the horseshoe crab, Sean received his prize.

That's faith for you. It may not have moved mountains, but it sure moved that horseshoe crab.

Jesus' point during the incident with the children back in His time was simple. You receive the Kingdom of God, that is, you experience God's rule and His provision, by trusting God as simply and as earnestly as a little child trusts. That's the kind of faith which enables you to see the Kingdom of God in operation – enables you to enter into God's concrete leadership and provision. Jesus' point was clear. Trust God the way little children trust, and you'll be able to see God working so that you'll be able to join God. That's when you'll be able to see God better, trust God more; and grow in His work day by day. Trust, pray, act, and trust God some more. That's God's kingdom in action, and how to enter into it.

Affectionately in Christ,

Phil

Highlights of Staff Planning Day

The members of the parish staff met at St. Matthew's, Jamestown, on June 3rd. We looked back over the past year's programs with a critical eye – cut what didn't work, to strengthen what did work, and to discuss new possibilities. We also began to discuss the report of the Dream Team, which now goes to the Ministry Discernment Team and on to the Vestry, so that the staff could be in a position to move forward in the upcoming year rather than be unable to do so because we hadn't made room for the possible programs that may come out of their collective work. So we considered possible dates for parish retreats, an adult mission trip, various small groups, new outreach potentials, and youth initiatives. We

discussed our schedule of services, as well. Concerns had been raised about the times of services – especially that quite a number of folks seem to find the 8:30 Eucharist and Sunday school taking place too early. Concerns were also raised that the youth choir has insufficient time to practice on Sunday mornings. So we entertained the possibility of changing the Sunday morning service schedule as follows: change the 8:30 Eucharist to **9 AM** and the start of Sunday school classes from about 9:00 to about 9:30 AM, and that we move the 10:30 Eucharist from 10:30 to **10:45 AM**. The members of the Liturgy Team are being asked to consider those changes and the Vestry will be asked to offer its perspective as well. Feel free to make your thoughts on the matter known to one of those persons. If we were to make these experimental changes they would be implemented in September.



**Pentecost
Evensong**

Pentecost

Evensong

Pentecost Evensong was a moving and beautiful service - this time in the "new" (1848 is new in Wickford!) church. All in attendance were transported by the exquisite music

presented by the Parish Choir, guest organist/choir director Diana Norton-Jones, and guest trumpeter Jennifer Collins, as well as the sung liturgy by Fr. Fred. The reception following was a festive and delectable spread hosted by Jackie Gildersleeve, Ann Waring and Betsy Steinman.

Thanks to all, particularly to Diana for so ably leading our music ministry during Mark's sabbatical. And welcome back to Mark.

Calling All Parishioners

We'd like to expand the number of parishioners involved in liturgical leadership on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in participating in any of these ministries please let Debbie know by calling the parish office (294-4357) and giving your name, phone number, e-mail address, and the role you're interested in serving as well as the service you ordinarily attend. These are the opportunities:



Sign up Today!

Readers: Read the scripture reading(s) from the lectern, aided by the sound system. What it takes is the ability to read to others with devotion, clarity and meaning.

Chalice Bearers: Offer the chalice of wine to people to drink at the time of Communion. What it takes is a steady hand and the ability to offer worshipers a drink from the common cup with devotion.

Prayers: Read the printed prayers from the lectern. What it takes is the ability to read with devotion, clarity and meaning.

Acolytes: Carry the Cross or the torch as you lead the procession into and out of the service, assisting the priests as needed. What it takes is a willingness to serve and to follow instructions, carrying oneself with dignity and devotion.

Ushers: Greet people as they come through the doors of the church for services and offering them a service bulletin, guiding them to a pew, if necessary, and taking up the collection at the time of the Offertory. What it takes is an ability to be hospitable and welcoming with a respectful attitude.

Greeters: Greet people as they enter the church for worship in a friendly manner and to assist them with any questions they may have. What it takes is friendliness and a politely welcoming demeanor.

These positions are open to one and all – new to the parish or long-time members, young or old (any role is open to all ages beginning at grade 9, or for acolytes any age beginning at age 10).

Phil

Prayer Shawl Ministry

A great big "thank you" for all the ladies who have been knitting prayer shawls for this past year. Over 40 have been made and blessed at a Sunday service.



The recipients, members of parish family who are not able to be with us at our weekend services, who are homebound or in nursing homes, are soooo appreciative of them. Each one is beautiful and has been made with loving hands.

We will resume our monthly meetings, the first Wednesday of the month at 11 am. on September 9.

Youth News



Following is a tentative schedule of upcoming events for both the MSY & HSY groups:

August 29 (Saturday) MSY B.B.Q. (Town Beach)

Sept 7 (Monday, Labor Day) HSY Gathering (B.B.Q. & Music) & Mission Trip Sign-up

Sept. 18 (Friday) MSY Bowling Night

October 5 (Monday) HSY Gathering (DR Commitment forms due & Pizza forms distributed)

October Dress Rehearsal (Halloween Happenings)

October Decorate (Halloween Happenings)

October 30 (Friday) Halloween Happenings

November 2 (Monday 5pm) HSY Gathering (Pizza Order Forms Due)

November 6 (Friday) MSY (St. John's Cathedral NYC)

November 14 (Saturday) 9:00 – 12:00 HSY Pizza Making Party & distribution

December 4 (Friday) MSY Live Nativity (6-8)

December 7 (Monday 5pm) HSY Gathering

December 22 & 23 MSY & HSY XMAS Baskets

December 31 MSY New Years Eve Lock-in

January 1 MSY Snow Tubing

January 4 (Monday) HSY Gathering
(Pizza forms distributed)

February 1 (Monday) HSY
Gathering (Pizza Forms Due)

February 6 (Saturday) HSY
Gathering (Pizza making party & distribution)

February 27 (Saturday) Dress rehearsal –
Variety Show

February 28 (Sunday) Variety Show

March 1 (Monday) HSY Gathering

March 28 (Sunday) MSY Seder

April 5 (Monday) HSY Gathering

April 9(Friday) MSY Bowling

April 17-24 (Sat.-Sat.) Dominican Republic
Mission Trip

April 26 (Monday) DR re-entry meeting

May 2 (Sunday) DR Youth Forum (9:45)

May 14 (Friday) MSY Spring Fling Music Fest

May 23 (Sunday) Youth Sunday (missioners
@ 5:15, 8:30 & 10:30)

June 6 (Sunday) Scholarship Sunday (10:30)

Please contact me if you are interested in any of these events.

Have a happy & safe summer!

~God's Peace
Trish



Sunday School News

We're still looking for a third teacher for the fourth grade. We like to have three teachers per grade to allow flexibility in teaching scheduling. No experience necessary; we place new teachers with more experienced ones and supply curriculum for each grade. If you are interested in helping out with the Sunday school this year, please call me at home @ 294-9908. I've been teaching Sunday school for 12 years and have received so much spiritually and personally from the experience. I love being with these children and youth and watching them mature in their lives. Come join us.

- July 27-31 Vacation Bible School Camp Canonicus
- September 13 Parish Day, 10am with Sunday school registration
- September 20 First day of Sunday school, Teacher Dedication
- September 27 Parent/student meeting Tenth grade Confirmation class

Lori

Soup Kitchen News

On June 6th, St. Paul's was represented at the Epiphany Soup Kitchen at Grace Church in Providence by the amazing team of Colleen and Paul Sardelli, Lynn Couchon, Becky Twomey and Tina Egan. We served a delicious and hearty meal to over 90 people.

Please call Tina at 401.480.8937 if you can help out on August 1st for our next opportunity to do the joyful work of service to God through community action.

Important Miscellaneous

Save the Date

September 13th

Parish Day and beginning of Sunday School Outdoor Service (weather permitting) - games and picnic

It's Not Too Late

It's not too late to sign up for the Art Festival – July 11 and 12.

Proceeds from food sales go to scholarships for our college students.

Sign up posters are in Church narthex.

Responsible Parking

When parking for the ONC, please make sure that emergency vehicles can get through on Church Lane. Also please do not block anyone's driveway. Consider parking in our lot and taking a pleasant stroll down the Greenway.

Did you know?

Student Vestry representative, Grace Palmer, was the valedictorian of her class at North Kingstown High School. She will attend Brown University in the fall. Way to go Grace!

WNL

While you are enjoying summer, please consider helping to host a Wednesday Night Live.

We begin again on September 23. It's a great fellowship opportunity and FUN! Call Marie Noble at 294-2672 to volunteer. Thanks.



Environmental Stewardship Notes from the Green Team

Recycling of electronics for St. Paul's Church and NK residents

The town of North Kingstown is now accepting electronic waste at the Transfer Station at 345 Devils Foot Road. Rhode Island residents may drop off televisions at no cost. The following additional items may be dropped off by North Kingstown residents at no cost:

- monitors/laptops
- stereo equipment
- network equipment
- cell phones
- cables & wires
- radios
- keyboards
- telephones and systems
- network equipment
- spare computer parts
- CPU's computers
- fax machines
- routers
- printers
- servers
- scanners
- computer mice

This new program provides an opportunity for not only the parish but all town residents to dispose of home and office electronics without adding to the toxic materials going into the landfill. Anyone disposing of a television is asked to stop at the scale house for further instructions. Anyone disposing of other items listed above is asked to drop them off with transfer station personnel at the scale house. Hours are **Tues.-Sat. from 7:30 am to 3:00 pm.**

Anyone needing assistance loading or delivering these materials for disposal can **contact Ted Seymour at 792-0427.**

This information will be available on St. Paul's website (under the Environmental Stewardship tab) for future reference.

"Green up your garden" workshop

Interested in environmentally friendly and cost-effective ways to enjoy your yard and garden? Ted Seymour and the Green Team will be offering a workshop at St. Paul's on Saturday, September 12th at 9 am (meet outside in the back of the church). Topics to be covered include:

- building/purchasing rain barrels to acquire chlorine-free water for garden irrigation
- building grow lights to start plants from seed
- composting food and yard waste to be used in gardening

If you have any questions, you can reach Ted at 792-0427.

-- The Green Team

“Human rights are universal and indivisible. Human freedom is also indivisible: if it is denied to anyone in the world, it is therefore denied, indirectly, to all people. This is why we cannot remain silent in the face of evil or violence; silence merely encourages them.”

Vaclav Havel

From The Dream Team

At each of the services on Pentecost the Dream Team presented the ideas and dreams collected as offerings to be blessed.

We believe that the Holy Spirit was present and a guide at our Dreaming Sessions as we invited prayerful brainstorming from participants considering these two questions:

1. How can St. Paul's help you to grow in your own personal relationship with God?
2. How is God calling you and St. Paul's at this time to mission and ministry in His name?

We thank all of the 38 participants from whom we received 241 responses - 113 for question 1 and 128 for question 2, many repeating and echoing common themes. It was evident through the sessions that our inquiries were welcomed and people are seeking and eager to give their input. The themes raised were:

1. The desire for more opportunities for spiritual formation challenge, knowledge, prayer and sharing.
2. The desire for more opportunities to be more integrated parish life and connect with one another through various programs and activities.
3. The desire for enhanced communication to connect people and needs to programs and opportunities.
4. The desire to put our faith into practice with more opportunities to be involved in mission locally and globally and to encourage and welcome cultural and economic diversity in our parish.
5. The desire for more opportunities for, and involvement of, children and youth throughout the spectrum of worship, music, fellowship and mission.

We believe the desire for spiritual formation and mission and ministry are interconnected and one informs the other. We believe a healthy church offers both to be an ever

growing, evolving channel of the Holy Spirit doing God's work both within and without.

" I am the vine and you are the branches..."

In the words of Thomas Merton...“ we do not know where we are going, but we do believe that the desire to please You does in fact please You...and that God will lead us by the right road...”

So with our faith and that prayer in mind, the Dream Team will take the next step along our path and bring all the suggestions to the Ministry Discernment Team and from there to the Vestry where, with the help of the Holy Spirit, these ideas will become recommendations for programs to begin in the fall.

Thank you all for your prayers and dreams

The Dream Team: Tina Butler, Alicia Cranston, Jeff Manickas and Bess Wilson.

Money Matters

Pledges received as of May 31, 2009 were \$184,673, which is \$20,506 over budget. This is really good to see in such difficult economic times. But, summer is now upon us and pledge income normally drops during these months. Please remember to keep up with your pledges as we all enjoy summer vacations and activities.

Expenses are very close to budget for the first five months of the year. Our Net Ordinary Income as of May 31, 2009 is \$20,779, against a budget of \$5,256. (We are doing better than expected to date)

Please also remember your multi-year Capital Pledges which are lagging somewhat behind what we expected. There are continual projects going on in and about the church which need a steady stream of funds to accomplish.

Thanks be to God for your faithful giving.

Wil Tolhurst

Assistant Treasurer

EPISCOPAL CHARITIES FUND Annual Appeal

It is a difficult year for fund-raising and non-profits. As more and more of our RI neighbors stand in need, most agencies are struggling to address adversities and difficulties of every kind with decreases in available resources. To date, St. Paul's Episcopal Charities Fund campaign needs to raise \$10,883 more to reach our annual goal of \$41,768.

In recent years, St. Paul's has not failed to meet its annual appeal challenge, largely from the participation and support of about 200 parish households. On behalf of those who will be served through these gifts, **"THANK YOU!"** to 151 individuals and families who have already made a pledge this year; your generous support means so much!

EVERY member of St. Paul's can participate by making a contribution, as each is able. Every gift is needed to meet our goal. If you haven't already done so, please consider making a pledge of support - forms are available in the narthex. Your decision to join in supporting Episcopal Charities will make a huge difference in the lives of so many of our RI neighbors. Every gift matters, no matter the size -- every gift helps.

In faith, we trust that God will bless every intention of our hearts and minds, as we seek to do His will. We ask your continued prayers for the mission and works that Episcopal Charities Fund enables throughout the year.

Faithfully,
Jeff and Thomasine Manickas,
Episcopal Charities Fund
Parish Campaign Chairs



A volunteer's prayer

I thank thee, Lord, as a volunteer:
For the chance to serve again this year;
To give of myself in some small way
To those not blessed as I each day.

My thanks for health of mind and soul
To aid me ever toward my goal;
For eyes to see the good in all,
A hand to extend before a fall.

For legs to go where the need is great
Learning to love — forgetting to hate;
For ears to hear and heart to care
When someone's cross is hard to bear.

A smile to show my affection true,
With energy plenty the task to do;
And all I ask, dear Lord, if I may,
Is to serve you better, day by day.

Introducing Free-cycle

Old ski boots cluttering up your closet? Or perhaps you are looking for a pair - try Free-cycle!

The Freecycle™ network was started in 2003 as a way to link items people no longer need with the people who might have a use for them. This keeps materials out of the landfill and encourages the free sharing of goods. Since its inception, the freecycle concept has spread throughout the U.S. as well as a number of other countries.

As part of the environmental stewardship effort at St. Paul's, we are starting our own version of Freecycle™ right here on our website (which we are calling Free-cycle). You will have an opportunity to find a new home for furniture, electronics, or anything else that you may no longer want and help someone else find something that they need. Or you may find that thing you have been looking for - for free!

Visit our website and click on the "Free-cycle" link to get started. -- *The Green Team**



The stewardship of life

'Life is an accomplishment. Each moment has a meaning and you must use it. Life is given to you like a flat piece of land and everything has to be done. I hope that when I'm finished, my piece of land will be a beautiful garden.'

-Actress Jeanne Moreau

Satisfied Servants

According to a survey conducted by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, clergy members rank highest in job satisfaction. More than 87% of pastors report being satisfied with their jobs. Firefighters are second (80%), and physical therapists are third (78%).

The survey collected data from more than 27,000 people for almost two decades. At the bottom of the job-satisfaction scale are roofers, waiters and gas-station attendants.

Survey director Tom Smith admits he was surprised that pastors topped the list. "Apparently the rewards of spiritual guidance and leadership outweigh the burdens of being a religious leader," he says.

Job satisfaction is highest in professions that involve "caring for, teaching and protecting others, and creative pursuits," Smith adds. Prestige and happiness aren't necessarily linked.

If you want to be happy in your work, seek out a career or volunteer opportunities that allow you to make a difference. Pray that God will show you ways to use your gifts to help others.



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

Helen Keller

Memorial Flower Fund (Suggested Donation \$15, \$25, \$50)

The following Sunday dates are available during 2009-2010. Please indicate the date desired and the name and occasion you wish to have remembered. (No flowers during Lent.)

September 6, 13, 20, 27	April 11, 18, 25
October 4, 11, 18, 25	May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	June 6, 13, 20, 27
December 6, 13, 20, 27	July 4, 11, 18, 25
January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
February 7, 14	

Date	Name/Occasion
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____

2009 Christmas Poinsettias & Decorations (\$15)

2010 Easter Lilies & Spring Flowers (\$15)

Sanctuary Lamp (\$10)

Date	Name/Occasion
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____

Name _____ Envelope # _____

Total _____

NOTE: If you wish to make any donation, please remove this page with your requests and return it to the Office.

Thank you.



**The Parish Register
May/June 2009**



Baptisms

*I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit . . .*

Cole Ray Gorman

May 30, 2009

Marriages

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder ...

Jennifer R Laptew and Paul Gacek

May 31, 2009

Jennifer N. Harris and Steven F. Elliott Jr.

June 6, 2009

*Love is patient,
Love is kind.
It does not envy,
It does not boast.
It is not proud.*

1 Corinthians 13:4