

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
31 Rider Avenue
Patchogue, New York 11772

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mailing Address
Street Number and Name
City, State 98765-4321



Vestry

Wardens: Robin Sconzo and Cathie Pliszak

Mary Dykman, , Scott Harris, Ronnie MacDonald, , Maurine Jacobs, Barbara Ruest, Laura Cooley, Barbara Greco, Nancy Western, Teresa Julian

Clerk:

Treasurer: Barbara Lapinski;

Parish

Phone: 631-473-3078

Email: www.stpaulspatchogue.org

Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9:30 AM- 1:00 PM Office Closed on Mondays

Rector: the Rev. Elisabeth E. Tunney

Parish Administrator: Ronny Pliszak

Parish Ministers: All the People of St. Paul's

St. Paul's Epistle

Vol.XVII Ed.2

February 2018



St. Paul's Parish Mission Statement: to be a thriving, loving, Christ-centered parish; a parish who knows Christ and makes Christ known.

We take seriously our Baptismal Covenant that says we will respect the dignity of every human being.

You are welcome to worship with us, to join with us in fellowship, and in our ministries, regardless of age, economic status, marital status, nationality, race, sexual orientation or gender identity, ability or disability, and wherever you are in your spiritual journey.

Holy Eucharist Evening Service **Saturday , February 3, 2018 7 PM** A Word from Mother Liz



I don't know about you but between arctic cold, snowstorms, our celebration of the Epiphany and Annual meeting, January has gone by in a whirlwind.

This year it means we tumble right out of January and into Lent which begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14. It is strange that the day we celebrate with chocolates and flowers should coincide with day we mark the beginning of a season calling us to self examination and repentance, prayer, fasting and self-denial.

As your priest I would like to remind you that Ash Wednesday should take precedence! According to the Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church there is no agreement either on the identity of the original Saint Valentine or on how he came to be associated with lovers so we are doing him no disservice by putting observing Ash Wednesday rather than his feast day, (admittedly your spouse or significant other may have a different perspective but I will leave that up to you to resolve.)

On Ash Wednesday we will have two services one at noon and noon at one 7:00 pm in order to receive the imposition of ashes.

This year we will make copies of Forward Day-by-Day available to all parishioners. This is a publication that provides readings and reflections for each day of the month and would be most appropriate to use beginning now and throughout Lent. We provide copies of this publication all year long so if you find that once having established the discipline of daily prayer it will still be available to you.

If you prefer you can also pray the Daily Office: Morning and Evening Prayer. In so doing you will have the opportunity to read from the Old Testament, the Epistles, and the Gospels each day. You can do this by using a Bible and a Book of Common Prayer or going to www.missionstelare.com which lays it all out for you, including music.

Another alternative would be to accept the Presiding Bishop's invitation to read the Gospel of Luke throughout the seasons of Lent and Easter. The following link will explain what is involved. www.goodbookclub.org.

And as I said a few weeks ago you can always take the opportunity to spend some quiet time to God. Sometimes our prayers are so full of our own words that we block what God is trying to say for us. Therefore in addition to any reading I encourage you to find some quiet time to sit and reflect and just listen for what God has to say to you. You will probably be surprised!

Vestry Highlights



- Mother Liz's presentation of the 2018 Budget proposal.
- An approval to plant a "Sign" in Patchogue Cemetery (St. Paul's section) where suffragist, Elizabeth Oaks is buried.
- Mother Liz's suggestion that parishioners may consider meditating during the Lenten season was well received.
- The weekly meeting of St. Claire's Guild has been moved from Tuesday evening to Friday afternoon.
- Date of the Spring Tag sale to be set next month.

Stewardship Committee



STEWARDSHIP

**Coming together in faithful community
to serve God in the world.**

For the Love of Stewardship

“We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord, Jesus Christ.”

1st Thessalonians 1:3

Right now, the stores are full of red and pink decorations, chocolates of every kind, fancy cards rhyming about love, and lots of other Valentine's Day stuff. Somehow, this commercial holiday has become our cultural expression of love. But for this article, I wanted to reflect on the love I feel for my friends and family here at St. Paul's.

Paul himself described love as an expression of stewardship. Loving our neighbors, loving our enemies, loving God. Stewardship is about how we live our lives and make our choices. For the past many, many years, Martin Minogue, Phyllis Voegeli, Conni Still and yes, even Michael Daly (come back to us!) have chosen to meet with me faithfully and with great patience and humor as we crafted messages to the parish conveying love as an expression of stewardship. We have considered over the years God's abundant gifts and how we can make the best use of these gifts.

Those of you who chose to pledge to St. Paul's for 2018 have probably received a thank you note from the Stewardship Committee. I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank my Stewardship Committee members for their service and for doing every little thing with great love. We have shared laughter and tears, always with prayer and they have made my job into a joy. I hope and pray that we will continue in this fellowship for many years to come!

“The ‘commandment’ of love is only possible because it is more than a requirement. Love can be ‘commanded’ because it has first been given.” – Pope Benedict XVI,

God is Love-Deus Caritas Est. Encyclical Letter

St. Paul's stewardship committee: Laura Cooley, Martin Minogue, Conni Still, Phyllis Voegeli



Buildings and Grounds



- Buildings and Grounds has been very busy this winter dealing with the snow and ice on our walkways and parking lot.
- Many thanks to Geppi Celauro who faithfully plows the driveway and parking area. He has provided this service freely and without fail.
- Many thanks to Mother Liz who has been busy spreading ice melt and sand in the bitter cold.

Not an easy task when the bags each weigh about 50 pounds.

- Many thanks to Max, an employee at the Lowe's in East Patchogue, who helped me lift sand bags into my cart and then proceeded to take me to customer service where he paid for all of them. The goodness and generosity of people never fails to surprise me.
- Many thanks to the B&G committee who show up for the work meetings where they tackle small tasks that pop up on a regular basis.
- Many thanks to all who contribute their time and energy for the benefit and beautification of our Church.

In January J P Hunter began working on the roof at the back of the church, a problem that has persisted for some time now. After many attempts in the past, we truly believe this will fix the leak in the choir room. There is one more area on the north side of the Parish Hall that still needs work done and then we must paint to protect and preserve all of the work that has been done over the last two years.



Repairing the leaking roof of long standing!



The finished product looks fabulous!

Which leads me right into our Raise the Roof campaign.....



"Christ has ... no other hands but yours"

St. Teresa of Avila

Raise the Roof

Many thanks to all who have so faithfully and generously donated in the past and continue to donate on a monthly or yearly basis. We are beginning year 3 of our 5 year plan and are happy to report we have collected over \$22, 000 dollars to date, with about \$4000 dollars pledged each year for the next 3 years. With this money we have been able to make many much needed repairs to our church and buildings. So again thank you!

Please include in your prayers this month:



Those who are sick or in need:

Craig Shaber, Dylan & Family, Ed Smith, Linda Bocca, Mary, Mike, Marcy, Lillian Hemmert, Janis McEvoy, Lou Cooley, Nikki, Phyllis Trypuc, Johnny, Martin Gunkel, Bill Whyland, Jackie & Dick Root, Marilyn Moonan, Jeannine Cranor, Laney, Mason & Family, Tony Retenski, Joyce, Vita Moore & children, Larry Smith, Terence Harrison, Janice Hoffman, Ann Keyes

Those who are serving in the armed forces and their families:

Nicholas Lo Russo, Danny Martin, Samantha Schwartz

Thanksgivings and Acknowledgments



- Meredith Kulesa for helping Mother Liz set up for the Epiphany celebration
- All those who contributed food and helped to clean up for our Epiphany feast
- Conni Still for providing the decorations and the Three Kings Cakes
- All those who helped to de-green the church and put away the Christmas decorations
- Outgoing vestry members Dee Laffin and Conni Still
- Incoming vestry members Teresa Julien, Ronnie MacDonald, Robin Sconzo, and Nancy Western
- All those who helped to set up for Annual Meeting, all those who brought food, all those who cleaned up afterwards but most of all those who attended, it was a joyous affair
- Everyone who contributed reports for the Annual Report and got them in on time!!!
- Ronny Pliszak for the extra work involved in compiling the Annual Report

Thrift Shop



Have you ever daydreamed about going on a quest, or exploring for buried treasure, or running off to seek your fortune like in a fairy tale? If the thought has ever crossed your mind you have an inkling of what it's like to volunteer in the thrift shop. Every bag of donations contains surprises; some are of the "eww" variety, most are of the "ohh" type. We had an "Ohh" the other day and now one of our volunteers is the proud purchaser of a mink coat in pristine condition, fitting like it was made for her.

It's always the luck of the draw and simply depends on who is on duty when the donation is evaluated. We are always happy to welcome more volunteers to our merry band of faithful friends!

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannine Cranor and Conni Still

St. Clare's Guild



St. Clare's Guild has been working on making little red hats for the Little Hats, Big Hearts project to send warm hats for newborns with congenital heart problems and deliver them in time for Valentine's Day.

As of the beginning of February we will change our meeting time from Tuesday evening to Friday afternoon at 2:30 to accommodate those members of the guild who can no longer travel at night. We hope that more people will join our friendly and productive group.



Coffee Hour



Volunteers are needed to host the coffee hours after the 8 and 10 o'clock services. Sharon Minogue will give you all the instruction on how to make delicious coffee and where all the equipment is kept, and the goodies are up to your imagination and baking or shopping skills! Best of all you can be

reimbursed for your purchases. Please see Sharon to sign up.



SAVE THE DATES!

February 13, 2018: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 6-7 PM in Parish Hall \$6/person

February 14, 2018: Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist 12 noon and 7 PM

Lenten Program: Soup Supper and Scripture Study of the Easter Vigil, Christ Church Bellport Tuesday Evenings at 6-8 PM

Oct 14, 2018 is the 175th Anniversary Luncheon

Watch for details!

Michael Daly closed the meeting with
“The Church’s One Foundation



New Vestry members Nancy Wester, Ronnie MacDonald, and Teresa Julien



Delicious brunch enjoyed by all!



Clerk Conni Still, Mother Liz, and Parliamentarian Kevin Weeks

