

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Pleasant Valley, NY



On The Road to Damascus...

Weekly Email Blast

December 14, 2018



For those celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Arlene Marchant, William Ottaway, Gina Olson, Ryan Caferra,
Sean House, Esther Ottaway, Kyle Beyer



From the rector:

In preparation for this Sunday's services, I invite all of us to be "stirred up" by John the Baptist again in Luke's Gospel.

My mentor and friend, the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Kaeton, introduced me to the idea of "Stir up Sunday" when I was in seminary. She writes:

"In most places in Western Christendom, the third Sunday in Advent is known as Gaudette Sunday. We switch to pink vestments, no - not because Mary really wanted a girl - but the color change begins to signal a shift from penitence or contemplation to the anticipation of the joy of the coming of the Nativity of our Lord. In Episcopal Churches, however, many refer to this as 'Stir up Sunday' - because of the Collect:

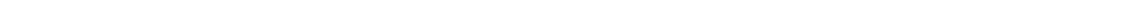
"Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen."

Elizabeth also talked about how in England, the 3rd Sunday in Advent was also the Sunday when folks would "stir up" the Christmas pudding which called for it to sit for a number of weeks.

"Supposedly," she says, "cooks, wives and their servants would go to church, hear the words 'Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord...!', and be reminded, by association of ideas, that it was about time to start stirring up the puddings for Christmas."

Come to worship this week, and we'll get stirred up together in joyful anticipation of the coming of Christ and all that can happen when we remember that we belong to God and to one another.

Peace to you,
Mother Megan





Christmas Eve services will be at 1:00 PM & 5:00 PM.
Holy Eucharist Rite II with Carols & Hymns.
Everyone is always invited!

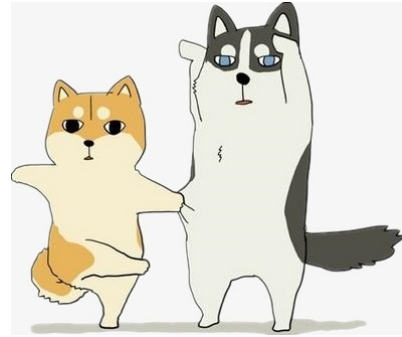


For Christmas Eve Service, we are still in need of 11:30
AM pickup for Alice. If you can help, please contact
[Kay Mackey](#):



Memorial intentions for Christmas Flowers are due by Tuesday, December
18th. Please email [Marilyn Kirchner](#) or call her at 845-635-3431 with the names

of those you wish to memorialize. Checks may be made out to St. Paul's with the memo line reading *Christmas Flowers*.



This Sunday at St. Paul's, come join in the annual Greening of the Church after the 10:00 AM service. It's the 3rd Sunday of Advent, and the next Sunday (4th Advent) is just one day before Christmas Eve! All are invited to "green" the church and enjoy coffee hour fellowship.

Mother Megan and Esther Ottaway will lead a second Acolyte Training after the greening and coffee hour.



Week 3 of Advent



Whatever we appreciate,
appreciates.

Unknown



LIVING
COMPASS

Practicing Generosity with All Your Heart

by Scott Stoner

December 11, 2018

Whatever we appreciate, appreciates. - Unknown

The word generous derives from the same root as the words that mean “to give birth,” (i.e., genesis and generative), and it is easy to see why. When we are generous with others, we are offering life to them. We are lifting their spirits, creating space for new life and growth in them. Being generous is like lighting a spark in someone else’s life. We never know what that spark may ignite within them and what may come into being because of that spark.

It is not uncommon to look back at something we have achieved and realize that there was a person or group of people who truly believed in us, and said just the right things to encourage us, or gave us just the support we needed to get started or to keep going. Their generosity gave life to us and gave us the ability to achieve something we otherwise would not have been able to accomplish.

The quote above says it succinctly: “What we appreciate, appreciates.” Expressing our genuine appreciation to others is a simple and powerful way of being generous with them. So often we associate generosity with giving in a way that involves money, but there are so many other ways, often much more significant ways, of being generous.

Perhaps today you can think of someone in your life to whom you would like to show a little extra appreciation. Give it a try and see if, in fact, what you appreciate, appreciates.



***** REMINDERS *****

[Adams Gift Cards: Year-Round Fundraising](#)

Available at both Sunday morning services. Please see Debby, Ginny, or Marilyn. St. Paul's receives 10% of the card value bought through our church. If you shop at Adams or give gift cards as gifts, our ministries benefit from this fundraiser. Thank You!

Communications

If you use Facebook, please like & follow the [St. Paul's page](#). Also, please invite people you know who may be interested in the mission and outreach ministries at St. Paul's. Let's get the WORD out!



Weekly Ministry Schedule

First Wednesdays -

1:00 PM Holy Eucharist - Rite II w/prayers for healing - ADA Access

6:45 PM Ecumenical Food Pantry

PV United Methodist Church, Volunteers Welcome!

All other Wednesdays:

1:00-2:30 PM Bible Study: Sepe Room, Parish Hall

Fridays:

6:00 PM: Evening Prayer in the Church

Sundays:

9:45 AM Sunday School

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM Adult Ed: Sepe Room, Parish Hall





Are you enjoying the newsletter, On The Road to Damascus? Do you have suggestions? Is there someone else you think might like to receive a copy? To subscribe simply send an email to stpaulspv@gmail.com with the name and email address you want added. Help us spread the Word.

Do you have an announcement you would like included in this newsletter? Send an email to stpaulspv@gmail.com with the details. It's that easy!



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