

## **The Epistle**

### **St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Pleasant Valley**

**January 2013**

“**St. Paul's** is a Christian family of caring people who strive to support and nurture each other and their community through faith and the grace of God.”

#### **FROM THE WARDEN...**

As a new year in Christ starts we put behind us an era. Our Pastor of fifteen years has retired and started a new life; we wish her well. Our transition has started by having Canon Elliot Lindsley with us through Advent and Christmas, and we thank him for taking communion to the sick and shut-ins. Father Wood joins us for the Epiphany and Ordinary time during the month of January.

We'll start our search for a new Pastor and, with God's help, have one by next year. It will take us that long to select a Pastor who will provide pastoral care and maintain the spiritual life and commitment of our church community. In the meantime, we're searching for an Interim Priest who will also provide that same care, while maintaining our spiritual life.

On a lighter note, the lovely Pageant and greening of the Church took place December 18<sup>th</sup>. The Church looked fantastic with the greens and poinsettias. The children did a great job decorating a Christmas tree in the parish hall. Thanks to John Borchert for setting our tree up. After that was completed, the YPF group and parents put on a delicious luncheon for all who helped. A special shout out to Nancy A., Anna D. and Mary Ellen B. for preparing the food.

As usual, the parishioners of St. Paul's continue to **reach out in the community**, this time for Claudio's Cans, collecting nonperishable foods in Claudio Coppola's name; and the Rural & Migrant Ministry toy store drive. Both projects were a huge success. Claudio's life was tragically cut short on November 9, 2012. In his honor, they collected 27 tons of food!

Our fund-raiser at **Fabulous Firs** (formally at Bilmar Nurseries, new spot this year), brought in \$1,172.12. Again, we say thank you to Nancy Adams, the new chair, the volunteers who worked each weekend, and to all who made delicious food to sell.

On Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup> a funeral service was held for **Jock Melville**. Jock passed away in his sleep on December 26<sup>th</sup>. He was loved by all and will be missed. We send our condolences to his family and friends.

The **new flower chart** has opened up to all who want to choose more dates; it's posted in the church vestibule. Note the first week of January and last week of December there are no flowers, unless you'd like to provide them; and there are no flowers during Lent. The cost of flowers is \$32 per Sunday. Sign up, along with the name of who'll be memorialized.

This is my last term as Warden, and we'll elect a new Warden at the Annual Meeting, February 10<sup>th</sup>. As your Warden, I've learned a lot about our church and how it is run. There is a lot to running a church; your Sunday bulletin does not just appear, it has to be selected, run and folded before being put in your hands Sunday morning. There are pledge cards to send out, so we can know how much we have to work with, along with making the budget for the year. There are marriages and deaths to minister to, along with different liturgical seasons, and what they bring.

Lent is a very important time and this year, **Ash Wednesday** is February 13<sup>th</sup>, with **Easter** falling on March 31<sup>st</sup>. The list goes on and on! I'm sure your new Warden, along with Warden Debby Glynn, will see to it that everything goes as smoothly as possible, especially during our time of transition.

I want to thank everyone who prayed for me during and after my recent surgery. As you know, it went well, and I am feeling better every day.

Keep well with Christ in our hearts.

- Barb Rawls, Warden

### **Birthdays and Anniversaries in January**

4	Isabella Fager	18	Tara Tumbarello
7	Rita Carver	22	Ken Beyer, Teddy Shaw
8	Greg Baluzy	23	Bill & Barb Albrecht
9	Donald McCarthy	24	Anna DeMarco
11	Jessica Shaw	26	Scott Case
12	Keith Beyer	28	Daniel Olson
13	Robert Strain	29	Jerry Knechtel

16 Will Kern, Michael Macak, Bryant Rawls 31 Troy Hassan

17 Jeff Kutner

### **Save the Date**

**February 10 Annual Meeting and Election of new Vestry:** Immediately following the 10am service of the Holy Eucharist. A potluck lunch is enjoyed by all, so please make a dish to share!

**February 10 Vestry Meeting** following the Annual meeting

**February 13 Ash Wednesday:** services at noon and at 7pm: Holy Eucharist with distribution of ashes; 7pm includes music.

### **WINTER BLUES DINNER RETURNS!**

The Winter Blues Dinner is to be held Saturday, February 23rd! Cocktails are served at 5:00 pm and dinner at 6:00 pm. Cost is \$30 per person and includes cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner entrée of salmon or beef, plus dessert, coffee & tea.

Reservations and payment must be in by Feb. 10. Call Barb Rawls at 845-635-8517 and mail payments to her, 47 Rawls Rd., Pleasant Valley, NY 12569. Send to [barbara.rawls2@verizon.net](mailto:barbara.rawls2@verizon.net)

**Annual Meeting/Election of the **N**ew Vestry**

On **Sunday, February 10, 2012**, following the 10am service, we'll hold our annual meeting and election of the new vestry. After church, we'll join together to enjoy a pot luck meal, followed by the meeting at which we'll elect a new Warden and two Vestry members. This is followed by the new Vestry meeting. We hope to see you all there; bring a dish to share!

If you wish to run for office or if you'd like to name someone as a candidate, speak to one of the Wardens to find out how to get your name to the Nominating Committee. (If a committee member approaches you to ask you to run, that doesn't mean you're elected: the committee needs to deliberate and decide.)

Vestry and Warden candidates must be baptized Christians, at least 18 years of age, regular in attendance at the Holy Eucharist, and have been a pledging member of this congregation for at least one year since the last Annual Meeting. A candidate for Warden must be a confirmed or received Episcopalian.

### **RETIREMENT PARTY FOR REV. O'HARA**

On Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, a celebration of Reverend Ellen O'Hara's 15 years as our pastor was held at the Pleasant Valley Fire House, with 140 enthusiastic guests in attendance.

A heartfelt thanks to the members of St. Paul's for all their help, from setting up the day before, to bringing an ample supply of appetizers and desserts; also to Madison's for the delicious main meal; and last but not least, for those that stayed after the party to help take down and clean up. Without all your help this affair would not have been the success it was. Mother Ellen was very touched and enjoyed it a great deal, as we all did!

-Sincerely, Kay Mackey & Ginny Johnson

## **STEWARDSHIP, STATEMENTS & LATE PLEDGES**

Stewardship update: As of December 21, 2012 we've received 52 pledges for 2013 with total donations of \$ 65,048. Thanks to all of you who have agreed to support St. Paul's.

Pledge statements for 2012 will be sent by January 31st. They're based on monies received during 2012. If there are any questions once you receive your statement, or if you don't get one, call our treasurer Marilyn Kirchner (635-3431).

Made a pledge but forgot how much? Didn't make a pledge, but you've had a change of heart? Need to revise your pledge downward or upward? Won the lottery and want to make a gift to St. Paul's? Just call the office (635-2854) or Marilyn!

St. Paul's Church

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Debby Glynn and Barbara Rawls, Wardens

**Vestry Members:**

Nancy Adams

Anna DiMarco

Terri Ghee

Rick Harris

Toni Howell

Nancy Lutz

Kay Mackey

Roger Tumbarello

Liz Whitman

Marilyn Kirchner, Treasurer

Terri Ghee, Assistant Treasurer

Kimberly Marker, Clerk of the Vestry

Marilyn Kirchner, Music Director

Alice Cann, Organist

**Newsletter Staff:**

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