

The Epistle

St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Pleasant Valley February/March 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.”

Annual Meeting/Election of New Vestry Members

On **February 10**, following the 10am service, we held our annual meeting and election of the new vestry. It was a wonderful chance to catch up on all that St. Paul's has been doing over the past year. A very big “thank you” to Fred Glynn, who formatted and made copies of the Annual Report to hand out at the meeting. We appreciate the extra effort he took doing a job most of us probably didn't even realize needed doing, or think about, but it took him quite a lot of time. Thanks to all who brought delicious food to share for our annual Potluck Lunch as well!

Nancy Lutz was elected to a two-year term as the new Warden. Rick Harris was elected to start a second three-year term on the Vestry. New members, both elected to three-year Vestry terms, are Dominick Caferra and Leslie Sprauer. Welcome aboard!

We all want to thank Barb Rawls for her many years as Warden, during which, among many other things, she has run numerous fundraisers and dinners. We will miss her! Nancy Lutz, our inveterate newsletter editor, finished up her 6th year on the vestry. She promises to resume getting The Epistle out, so we may be kept up to date on what's going on.

Anna DeMarco is coming off the vestry after serving a 3-year term. She's been an invaluable help in many ways, particularly for her part in organizing the "Team Bill" fundraiser last year. We'll miss them all, but we won't allow them to get too far away!

Vestry meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of the month at 7pm, and all are welcome to attend.

– Debby Glynn, Warden

Lent Quiet Days

The Lent Quiet Days are at Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, Ulster County, on **Wednesday, February 27** and **Thursday, February 28** from 9:45am to 4pm. One can pick either day. It will be led by the Rev Gwyneth MacKenzie Murphy. There's a 9am Eucharist in their Chapel. The \$25 fee includes lunch. Registration is limited and you must register by Thursday, February 21. Forms are available at the Parish Hall for registration and additional information.

St. Patrick's Day/ Irish Dinner Set

Saturday, March 16, is the date for the annual Irish Dinner at St. Paul's! The menu is the traditional corned beef, cabbage, potatoes and home-made Irish soda bread. Dessert is ice cream and cookies. Dinner is served continuously from 4:30-7pm. The cost is \$12, and children age 10 and under can dine for only \$7; kids under age 6 will be served free! Reservations are **not** necessary.

Along with dinner, there's a Silent Auction of tickets for things to do, books and dining certificates, and perhaps some basket raffles! Call our wonderful event chair Barb Rawls, 635-8517 or Barbara.rawls2@verizon.net if you want to help or donate to the raffle.

Pledge Statements

Pledge and giving statements for 2012 have been sent or given out. If someone did not receive their copy or has a question they should contact Marilyn at 635-3431.

The Search Process, Committee and Parish Survey

On December 1, 2012, Reverend Ellen O'Hara officially retired from St. Paul's Episcopal Church here in Pleasant Valley. On September 10, 2012, the vestry selected John Borchert to chair the Search Committee. On February 10, 2013, after the selection of the new Vestry Members and new Warden, the selection of the Search Committee was finalized.

Search Committee: John Borchert (chair), Nancy Adams, Roger Tumbarello, Liz Whitman, Anna Demarco, Greg Haviland, Charlotte Jones, Marilyn Kirchner, and Barbara Rawls.

Parish Survey: As part of the search process, a survey will be developed and provided to the parishioners in the next month. Information gleaned from the survey will be used to help write our parish profile (which potential rector candidates will read) as well as help us understand what you feel we should be looking for in a rector. Your input will be key in making this process a success; this is how you help shape the future of St. Paul's Pleasant Valley.

- John Borchert, jborchert@msn.com

News on Repairs to The Rectory

Before her retirement, the Rev. Ellen O'Hara set us on our path to transition by generously donating to Saint Paul's an inspection report she had commissioned on the rectory by Quaker Home Inspections, Inc. Using this report, along with numerous site inspections, Donato Caferra compiled a list of the work that needs to be done at the rectory. And as usual, the Saint Paul's parishioners have jumped to the challenge and are working feverishly to accomplish this work. And yes, they have proved that we can do more than just cook!

To date plumbing, heating and electrical work has been done. The garage has been insulated and fire rocked. A fire door between the garage and living space has been installed.

The holes in the basement walls and ceilings have been patched. The kitchen and the bathroom have been gutted to the studs. Bids have come in on a new kitchen and bathroom.

Donato worked up a budget that was presented to the vestry on February 10. The budget and proposed work was approved at that meeting. We have also received financial donations of approximately \$2,000 to help offset some of the cost. **If anyone would like to put their special talents to work, please contact Donato Caferra, 635-9792, or Rick Harris, 635-3475.**

In closing, I would like to give a special thanks to everyone that has helped out so far. "Thank you" to Rev. Ellen O'Hara, Donato Caferra Fred Glynn, Bill Kirchner, Ken Towers, John Gruner, Tony Pullian and Ricky Harris.

-- By Rick Harris

Weep With Those Who Mourn

It is with sadness that we inform you that Florence passed away on the morning of Thursday, January 31, 2013 at age 79. She was an active member of St. Paul's, where she taught Sunday school. Florence is survived by her husband, Howard Williamson; her 3 daughters and their husbands; Debbie and Ronny Shipley of Pleasant Valley, Pamela Moustakas and Jeff Barnett of Pleasant Valley, and Candace and Daniel Olson, Jr., of Hyde Park; her five grandchildren, including Gina Olson; great-grandchildren, Austin and Brycin Shipley and Logan Harp who'll be born this year; sister, Ruth Wright; as well as many nephews and nieces.

They asked me to reprint this note of thanks from their family.

February 16, 2013

To Our Parish Family,

Once again, St. Paul's came through for one of their own.

Many thanks to our wardens, Barb and Debby, for all they did to ease many burdens for our family; from getting the ministers for the funeral service to car parkers, (from getting) readers and acolytes, to coordinating all the wonderful food for the reception.

We would also like to thank everyone who helped in any way to make that day bearable. Words cannot express how deeply we appreciate everything that everyone did for our family.

This church is truly a miracle of God. To experience the love that you all showed at such a difficult time in our lives is truly a blessing and it hasn't stopped just because the funeral is over.

Your continued love, support and lots of hugs are what will get us through this time of loss. We thank you one and all. May God bless all of you!

With much love,

The Family of Florence Williamson

Baked Ziti Fundraiser

On **Saturday, March 2, 2013**, a baked ziti dinner, with sausage, meatballs, salad and dessert, will be held by Tess Manning and Nick Taylor to raise money for their "Bridges to Community" Trip. This trip is to build a house in Nicaragua. It will take place in our Parish Hall from 5-7pm. A donation of \$10 is suggested. No reservations are necessary!

Bridges to Community is a non-profit, community development organization. Their challenge is to create a world where basic needs are treated as human rights: shelter, nutrition, education, healthcare, and employment. They work to meet this goal by bringing volunteers to live in materially poor communities, where they work on our ongoing community development projects. www.bridgestocommunity.org

Lenten Programs

Liz Whitman has offered to hold Evening Prayer services each Tuesday night at 6pm through the penitential season of Lent.

Lenten Bible Study and Discussion will be held after the 10am church service during the Sundays of Lent. Bring your Forward Day by Day booklet along for those informal sessions.

Eucharistic Ministers

Three of our Eucharistic Ministers (Esther Ottaway, Marilyn Kirchner and Liz Whitman) are licensed to bring Holy Communion to parishioners who are too ill to be present at a Sunday service, and who would like to receive the sacrament on that same Sunday. This is not instead of a priest visiting, but an extra service, a way to maintain a connection with the whole congregation. These visits can take place at your home, in the hospital or in a nursing care facility. Please contact Esther at 635-3915, Marilyn at 635-3431 or Liz at 464-3903 for more information, or to arrange a visit for yourself or a loved one. You can also contact the wardens, instead.

Easter Flowers

There will be no flowers on the alter until Easter, as we have entered the Lenten season. Call Barb Rawls, as she has agreed to take names for the Eater Flower memorials at 635-8517 or

Barbara.rawls2@verizon.net. Please get her the names of those you'd like to memorialize or honor by Palm Sunday, March 24th. Thanks, Barb!

Meanwhile, continue to sign up on the flower board in the vestibule of the church for other Sundays throughout the year. FYI, our cost has risen to \$32 a Sunday for the two bouquets. You may donate whatever amount you wish.

To the People of St. Paul's and friends:

Last November, you gave me one of the best parties I have ever had. When I reflect on our gathering at the Pleasant Valley Fire House, I feel I am once again in the presence of your amazingly generous spirit.

Over the past months, it has seemed to me as though I were in the midst of a whirlwind: retirement, relocation, celebrating Christmas—all these high impact transitions at once. These processes require lots of strength and support: I had lots of support, but I make no claim for the personal strength!

Thank you for the party and for the splendid gifts.

Thank you for your presence and sense of fun; the roast; the singing; the many conversations; the delicious (and beautiful) cake; the homemade hors d'oeuvres and desserts—all of it will remain in my heart. Thank you.

Most of all, I thank you for our time together as priest and people. It was a great privilege to serve at St. Paul's: May you shine as a beacon and testimony to the abiding wisdom and power of God's intimate love for his people.

“For all that has been — Thanks. For all that shall be — Yes.” (From *Markings* by Dag Hammarskjöld).

--The Reverend Ellen O'Hara

Pastoral Needs: Priest

If you are in need of a priest, please contact the Wardens, Debby Glynn, 635-8756, and Nancy Lutz, 463-5446 (office), or 464-8484 (cell). They will be happy to contact one for you during this time of transition.

Happy February Birthdays and Heartfelt Anniversaries!

6. Laurie Colgan, Pat Malin and Gerald and Esther Ottaway

12. Mark Schneider
14. Judy Buechele
17. Heather Adams
20. Rachel Hixson
21. Amanda Evans
22. Barbara Bedder
24. Mary Ottaway DeJong, Sally Ottaway Glick, and Christopher Dyson
26. Skylar Alexis Macak
27. Mary Ann Page
28. Christine Englehardt and Linda Hixson

Save the Date

- Feb. 23** **Winter Blues Dinner** \$30, reservations required, salmon or beef; call Barb Rawls, 635-8517 or Barbara.rawls2@verizon.net to see if there's still room
- Feb. 26, & 3/5, 13, & 19: Evening Prayer** for Lent every Tuesday
- March 2** **Baked Ziti** Fundraiser
- March 11** **Vestry Meeting** follows the Committee Meetings at 6:30pm
- March 16** **Irish Dinner:** Want to help? Call Barb Rawls, 635-8517 or Barbara.rawls2@verizon.net
- March 24** **Palm Sunday**, services at 8am and 10am
- March 31** **Easter Sunday**, services at 8am and 10am
- More details on Holy Week services will be in the next newsletter!**

Women's Luncheon

A lively group of parishioners went to Rhinebeck on February 3 and enjoyed our annual Women's Luncheon. They dined in style at the Beekman Arms, our nation's oldest continuously operating inn, opened in 1776. Imagine, dining where both President George Washington and astronaut Neil Armstrong did before you!

It's welcomed MANY presidents and elected officials: George Washington, Philip Schuyler, Benedict Arnold and Alexander Hamilton have all been guests. Also President Benjamin Harrison, because his Vice-President was Levi Morton, a local resident for whom Rhinecliff's Morton Memorial Library is named; he's buried nearby. Later President Franklin Delano Roosevelt spent considerable time here, and finally President Clinton and his family did as well, as I write this on President's Day! Mostly, thanks to Barb Rawls for organizing the luncheon again this year! Missed it? Visit www.beekmandelamaterinn.com

Slideshow of the Installation of Bishop Dietsche

A slideshow of photographs taken at the Installation of Bishop Dietsche as 16th Bishop of New York is available at <http://events.episcopalny.org/feb2/photographs>

Bishop Dietsche's Sermon at his Installation as 16th Bishop of New York is online at: http://episcopaldioceseny.org/news_items/243-bishop-dietsche-s-installation-sermon

As a printable pdf at: http://episcopaldioceseny.org/system/doc/file_name/production/1264/Installation_Sermon_02_02_13.pdf

A pdf of the service booklet is at: http://episcopaldioceseny.org/system/doc/file_name/production/1263/Dietsche_Installation_2-2-13.pdf

Submit Newsletter Articles

Coming in March/April: Next month we will print a letter thanking us for spreading some Christmas cheer from Bill Kern and his family as well! Please contact Nancy Lutz @ nancy@dutchesstourism.com to contribute items for The Epistle newsletter. The best way is to send an email, but you can call her days at 463-5446, or on her cell at 845-464-8484.

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Wardens: Debby Glynn, 635-8756, and Nancy Lutz, 463-5446 (office) & 464-8484 (cell)

Vestry Members:

Nancy Adams
Donato Caferra
Terri Ghee
Rick Harris
Toni Howell
Kay Mackey
Leslie Sprauer
Roger Tumbarello
Liz Whitman

Marilyn Kirchner, Treasurer
Terri Ghee, Assistant Treasurer
Kimberly Marker, Clerk of the Vestry

Marilyn Kirchner, Music Director
Alice Cann, Organist

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