

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
The
EPISTLE

April 2015



PO Box 1449 (Traver Rd. at the corner of Rte. 44), Pleasant Valley, New York 12569
Tel: 845-635-2854 stpaulspv@verizon.net www.stpaulspv.org

Bishop of New York
The Rt. Reverend
Andrew Dietsche,



Interim Pastor
The Reverend Robert Flanagan

Wardens
Debby Glynn, 635-8756
Roger Tumbarello-635-1220

Vestry Members:
Nancy Adams
Donato Caferra
Amanda Evans
Karen Garrison
Rick Harris
Sandy House
Kay Saderholm
Nancy Tompkins
Liz Whitman

Treasurer Marilyn Kirchner
Assistant Treasurer
Terri Ghee
Clerk of the Vestry
Kay Mackey

Music Director
Marilyn Kirchner
Organist
Alice Cann

Epistle
Kay Mackey



ALLELUIA, He is risen!

Please join us as we remember and celebrate the marvelous acts of salvation brought to us by Jesus Christ. As usual St. Paul's has many ways for you to experience the solemnity and joy of the time. If you haven't been to church in a while, I ask that you make time to worship God. It will lift up your spirit and ground you in God's love.

Holy week began with **Palm Sunday** services at 8 and 10 a.m. We gathered in the Parish Hall, before the 10 a.m. service as we reenacted Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. On **Maundy Thursday (April 2)**, the service begins at 7 p.m. and concludes with the solemn stripping of the altar. Immediately after the service, the Night Watch Vigil begins. I invite you to sit in the silence of the church for an hour to contemplate the Last Supper and Good Friday. Sign up in the Parish Hall or the Church for a shift. **The Good Friday (April 3)**, service begins at 12 noon and includes the singing of the Lord's Passion and communion from the reserved sacrament. Lastly, there will be an ecumenical **Good Friday Stations of the Cross service at 6:30 p.m.**, beginning at the Presbyterian Church, carrying the Cross to St. Paul's Church and ending at St. Stanislaus Church. So you may have many ways to spiritually experience Christ's final week. I hope you'll pick one or two.

We will celebrate Christ's triumphant victory over sin and death on **Easter Sunday (April 5)**, with Eucharist (Rite I) at 8 a.m., and Eucharist (Rite II) with music at 10 a.m., which includes an **Easter egg hunt**. There will also be a **sunrise service on Easter at the Mill Park** in Pleasant Valley starting at 6:30 a.m.

Listen for the bells!
Father Bob



Sunday Services

Holy Eucharist

8AM-Rite I

*10AM-Rite II
With music*

*9:45AM– Sunday
School*

*Join us for fellow-
ship and refresh-
ments following the
10 AM service*

*Evening Prayer
6 PM Fridays*

The Stagecoach's Journey

In the third chapter of John's Gospel, John the Baptist spoke to his followers about his ministry and Jesus. He said, 'No one can receive anything except what has been given from heaven. You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Messiah, but I have been sent ahead of him.' He who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. For this reason my joy has been fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.'

In many ways, the role of an interim pastor is like John the Baptist. The interim's work is to prepare the path for the arrival of the rector. As the arrival of the rector nears, the interim's influence and work with a community decreases. The interim steps aside as the rector takes over. I think of it as handing over the reins to a team of horses leading a stagecoach across the prairie. The goal is for the transfer to be seamless; those riding in the coach hardly notice.

As I enter my last few weeks with you, I will work with your leaders in handing over St. Paul's to Mother Sanders. I do so joyfully. She is a terrific priest. I couldn't be happier for you. Your search committee and vestry have made an excellent choice.

Please take the time to speak with me or stop by the office on Tuesday or Wednesday mornings for a visit. I want us to have a chance for a proper good-bye and to hear what's on your mind.

You are a fabulous congregation. Your love for each other and the Lord is so apparent to me. Great things are in store for you. For that, my heart is full.

Listen for the bells!

Father Bob



A TIME FOR THANKS

Hopefully you have been dropping coins in your **United Thank Offering (UTO)** blue boxes. Our parish UTO spring ingathering is set for **Sunday, April 11th** at both services.

If you cannot be there, convert your saved coins to a check and send it **MADE OUT TO "St. Paul's Church"** with UTO on the memo line. You can send it directly to the church (PO Box 1449) or to Marilyn Kirchner, 6 Talbot Drive, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569. If you bring your offering to church, there will be UTO envelopes that you can use for cash or checks. UTO blue boxes are available in the church vestibule or Parish Hall or ask Marilyn Kirchner.

Irish Dinner and Auction results



Each year the community looks forward to St. Paul's annual Irish Dinner. Our Chef in charge, Bill Kirchner did not disappoint. Comments overheard, "this is the best corned beef I have ever eaten." Everyone who worked to make this event a success know who you are and we could not do this without you. There are a few people who we want to give special thanks to; Betty Lorentzen for all her table settings and decorations plus all the hours she spent in her kitchen making the soda bread. Derek Tompkins and Steven Sprauer from our Sunday School did a great job passing out the desserts of Stewart's Ice Cream (donated) and the homemade cookies from the kitchens of our parishioners. Again, the two young men who are staying with the Rick Harris family as exchange students from China pitched in to help Donato and Jason Caferra with the refreshments. John Borchert brought his hard working Boy Scouts who in addition to clearing the tables and helping with reset were there to be sure everyone was served. Our buffet servers made sure everyone had enough to eat. A shout out to not only Toni Howell, who was our chief dishwasher for over 2 hours but all those who helped and stayed to clean up after the event. The Ottaways packed the few leftovers and all were purchased by the next day. Three cheers to Terri and Bob Ghee for chairing this event. The dinner made \$1315.43 and we fed 152 people including 20 take outs. Considering the increase in cost of the meat and the inclement weather everyone should be pleased with the outcome. A special thanks to Marilyn Kirchner who makes sure we have adequate supplies and is able to report totals by Sunday morning.

Barbara Rawls and her helpers did a great job with the Silent Auction. Unfortunately our display was limited due to lack of space. The set up in the Sepe Room was very attractive and sales went very well. As of this date Barbara reports we made \$813.00. There are still a few items to be picked up.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 13th– 7p.m. Vestry Meeting– Committees at 6:30

April 19th– The Annual Women's Luncheon (previously known as the Holiday Luncheon) and perhaps in the future will be known as The Annual Parish Luncheon as men have attended in the past and are welcome to sign up again this year.

Place: Copperfield's Restaurant, Rte 44. We have reservations for 1 p.m. Meals can be ordered off the menu and separate checks will be available. A sign up list will be available in the Parish Hall or you can call Ginny Johnson at 635-2702. Even if you are not a regular church attendee please think about coming to this luncheon to renew friendships.

April 29th– Following the 10 a.m. worship service we will have an special coffee hour in honor of Father Bob and his wife. All are welcome. If you come to the 8 a.m. service please return for this party.



**St. Paul's Episcopal
Church 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.**

Greetings from your wardens. March was another busy month at St. Paul's, especially for the Buildings and Grounds committee. Finishing touches are being completed on the rectory, making it ready for **Mother Megan Sanders**, our soon to be new Rector, who will move in during the last week of April.

You may have noticed a lot of **Harris Plumbing** trucks in the parking lot. The bathroom renovation has started! It will take a few months to complete, so be patient with any inconveniences the construction presents. The results will be well worth it.

We mourn the loss of **the Rev. Robert Dresser**, late husband of **Deborah Dresser**, our supply priest of many months during our transition. The vestry authorized a donation in his name to the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, an organization dear to both their hearts.

The Irish Dinner and Silent Auction was a huge success, due to the work of **Bob and Terri Ghee, Bill Kirchner, Barb Rawls and Betty Lorentzen**, along with many others. Comments from the crowd said the meat was the best ever. (see page 3 for additional comments)

Looking to the future, the most important news is that our new Rector, **Mother Megan Sanders**, will be moving into the Rectory the last week of April and will start 'work' May 1. Due to a conflict, her first Sunday will be May 10. We are all looking forward to meeting her and beginning our journey together. Mother Megan graduated from General Theological Seminary in 2007. She has had a variety of work experiences, most recently as Interim at St. Andrew's on Staten Island. We all offer her a very warm welcome.

Mother Megan's arrival signals a departure of our current Interim, **Father Bob Flanagan**, whose last Sunday will be April 26. Join us in a farewell celebration at Coffee Hour that day. Father Bob has been an invaluable resource during the latter part of our transition, and especially in preparing us for our new rector. We will miss him and wish him well in his next endeavor.

The Women's Holiday Lunch is being organized by **Ginny Johnson**. It will take place April 19. Save the date! (see page 3)

Somewhere in our future will be our Spring Cleanup. Watch for details!



A Tribute to Father Bob,

The people of St. Paul's have struggled through difficult weather this past winter. We have also struggled at times awaiting the outcome of the thorough search for a new priest since Mother Ellen retired over two years ago. We have had an amazing experience offered by the numerous supply priests who kindly shepherded us during this transition period.

Our interim priest Father Bob arrived in September 2014 and was warmly welcomed by everyone. He has provided comfort and blessings to those in need. He has guided us at a time when those involved in managing many of the activities that allow our church to function and our worship services to run smoothly, were feeling overwhelmed. Father Bob was our St. Bernard during this long winter, rescuing us from the storms. His sense of humor and way of using the scriptures to strengthen us allowed our congregation to work together in order to continue the mission of St. Paul's Church. As with any good friend we will all miss him and his family but we send him on to rescue others and to spread the good word. Please keep us informed when you publish a new book and keep us posted on your journey to understanding the soul. You are always welcome here.

Out of this long winter came the good news that we will be welcoming our new priest, Mother Megan Sanders. This will truly be a Happy Easter and happy spring.

Your St. Paul's family.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Liz Whitman | |
| 3. Irene Keenan | |
| Paige Evans | 20. Jennifer Kirchner; Karen Caferra |
| 4. Jeffrey Macak; Mara Blatz | 27. Steven Sprauer |
| Dylan Howell | |
| 6. Candy Olson | |
| Alexandra Sprauer | |
| Olivia Evans | |
| 7. Gerald Ottaway | |
| Melissa Wagner | |
| 8. Gretchen Kirchner | |
| 10. Daniel Olson | |
| 12. Jacob House, Katherine Cavaliere | |
| 15. John Baluzu | |
| 16. Scott Lowe | |
| 17. Laura Towers; Morgan Blatz | |
| 18. Corey Hixon | |
| 19. Nancy Lutz; Connor Blatz | |

