

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The

EPISTLE

November 2014



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,
Nancy Lutz,
Office 463-5446
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Vestry Members:

Donato Caferra
Karen Garrison
Terri Ghee
Rick Harris
Sandy House
Toni Howell
Lesley Sprauer
Roger Tumbarello
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

A Message from Father Bob



On one of my recent drives to St. Paul's from my home in Connecticut, the rust, green, and orange colors dotting the hillsides stirred my soul. One bright, orange maple tree caught my eye and for a moment, its beauty shook my core. I suddenly became aware of the greatness of God and my spirit gave thanks for this simple, brief moment of awe.

When such moments occur in our lives, it is good to pause. It is important to allow our hearts, spirits, and souls to swell with wonder. These moments of transcendence are gifts from God, meant to remind us that the busyness of our lives are not central to our existence. They reorient us back to the loving Creator, who calls to us in ways that are both simple and profound.

In times of transition, God often creates signs that draw us closer to him. Maybe God understands that many of us feel unsettled as we move from one place to another, or, in case of a church, when one leader departs and the church seeks a new one. In the Book of Exodus, we see God creating many moments of transcendence. Your job is to seek out, experience, and name them when they occur. My job is to help you see them and understand them. To help cultivate such moments I will ask you from time to time to experiment with me. Importantly, I'm not asking you to change, but rather to try out different activities. My hope is that by these experiments you may grow in your understanding of yourselves, St. Paul's Church, and God.

Times of transitions may be unsettling, but they may also be times of anticipation, joy, wonder, and discovery. They may be times filled with excitement and expectation. They are times when God, through moments of transcendence, helps us become more fully human and beloved. Thank you for allowing me to lead you during this special time at St. Paul's.

Father Bob



Sunday Services

Holy Eucharist

8AM-Rite I

10AM-Rite II With music

9:45AM– Sunday School

Join us for fellowship and refreshments following the 10 AM service

Evening Prayer 6 PM Fridays

Message from your wardens

I was thinking about the Old Testament lesson Numbers 20:2-13, where Moses finally sees the Promised Land, but God tells him he's not going to get there himself. He's done a great job, but, because he's only human, has made a few mistakes, too. When the Israelites needed water, Moses didn't trust in the Lord enough and disobeyed his command, hitting the rock instead of speaking to it to make the water flow. He achieved the desired result, but he took credit for it, rather than giving all the glory to God.

So it is with me sometimes. I start to second guess the Lord's will. I figure another season, another time hearing the same scripture, another holiday – we should probably do the same things we've done before. Wrong; it's a good idea to look around and try to "think outside of the box", for new forms of outreach, new ways of worshiping and building up our community.

Sometimes I think I'm somehow in charge of some of St. Paul's celebrations and festivities. Wrong again; we've been here 175 years, and hopefully will go on for centuries. Leaders are necessary, but they must listen to everyone else's ideas, as well as listen for the voice of God. Sometimes we're leaders, but it's important to follow as well.

Sometimes I'm happy to give direction to others, but sometimes, I have to remind myself to stop and listen. To refuel, and refill my own spirit. To discern what God would have me do, not just forge ahead with what I enjoy doing or suppose is needed. Moses was out there for 38 years, so it's natural for him to think of himself as the big cheese. But he was still supposed to do as God told him, not override him. I know I'm not as good a listener as I am a talker, so I'm working on that. God gave us two ears and only one mouth for a reason. I am trying to be a little quieter so I can hear what God is saying. Maybe God has some new ideas for my life!

Life comes at you fast. Like the end of the hymn, Our God, Our Help in Ages Past: "Time, like an ever rolling stream, Bears all its sons away...". Boy, time sure does fly! That's why we want to speed up and fit in as much activity as possible. We forget the process is also important, just as important as the result. It's important to have fun at our fundraisers, it's important to expose new people to St. Paul's, and it's important to provide low-cost clothing for those in need at our Thrift Shop, in addition to making money. And we ask forgiveness for the things we have done, and also for what we have left undone! We shouldn't do more than God asks us, nor ignore his wishes.

As we transition from fall into winter, it's a good time to slow down and assess our parish. Are we acting out of joy in being children of God, and not for our own benefit (probably, but it's good to check)? Try to be still and listen to the voice within. What is it telling you? Where might it lead you? What new things might you be called to undertake here at St. Paul's? As Father Bob said, the new Rector can't possibly have every quality we desire; s/he is human, just like Moses. So let's keep asking ourselves, how can we improve St. Paul's? How can we best use our gifts to please God? How can we stretch ourselves and be happier? How can we grow our congregation?

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Wardens Nancy Lutz and Debby Glynn

St. Paul's to Host Roast Pork Dinner



A buffet style roast pork dinner will be held in the parish hall of St. Paul's Church on Saturday, November 1st. The menu includes roast pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, applesauce, sauerkraut, carrots, homemade apple crisp and other apple desserts and beverages.

Dinner is served continuously from 4:30– 7pm. Take out is available. The cost is \$13.00. Seniors can dine for \$12.00 and children under 7 for free. Reservations are not necessary.

Parking for the disabled is available in the lot by the parish hall. Parking is available across Traver Road at the Traver Road School. Call 845-635-2717 or visit www.stpaulspv.org (click on Parish Events) for information.

St. Paul's to Host Craft Fair

On Saturday, November 15th from 10 am– 4pm St. Paul's will host a craft fair. Admission is free.

The church has gathered together a multitude of artisans specializing in handmade treasures you are sure to enjoy giving (as well as receiving!) Many items have been called, but it is up to shoppers to decide what is chosen.



A selection of jewelry, hand-painted anything boxes, quilted items, framed photographs, holiday arrangements, plus Creations by Chloe, dragonfly felting fabrics, and letter perfect designs paper crafts, will all be for sale. Refreshments are also offered for purchase.

The parish hall is handicapped accessible with parking nearby and overflow across Traver Road at the Traver Road School.



**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.**



In celebration of Halloween there was a parade the evening of October 24th for the children of the Pleasant Valley area. The parade ended at Traver Road School for a party. The community was asked to light pumpkins along the parade route. Barbara Rawls generously donated numerous pumpkins and not only the children of our church school but also adults carved pumpkins. Debby Glynn arranged them near our church sign. It was fun watching the children parade behind the huge fire truck dressed in their costumes.

Thanks to everyone involved in this community event and thanks to Teddi Southworth for this beautiful photo.

Special November Dates

November 4th– **Election Day.**

Be Thankful for your freedom to vote!



November 27th– **THANKSGIVING DAY**

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow!”

*Please remember to return your pledge cards and
Uto.*

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

2. Amber Towers
4. Roberta Weidler
5. Chris Keenan
7. Daryl Haight
- 9 Alice Cann
10. Sue Haight
11. Gerald Haight
12. Dawn Macak
13. Caitlin Rouse
15. Laura Baluzy
16. Barbara Haight
20. Harold & Sandy House
23. Jason Caferra
Barbara Albrecht
24. Roger Tumbarello
25. Jonathan Baluzy
28. Janet McCanlis

FALL SCHEDULE FOR ST. PAUL'S 2014

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| Nov. 1 | Pork Dinner |
| Nov. 2 | Celebration of All Saints Day |
| Nov 10 | Vestry Meeting 7pm Committees meet
6:30 |
| Nov. 14-15 | Diocesan Convention. |
| Nov. 8 | Fall clean-up . |
| Nov. 9 | Rain date for clean up |
| Nov. 15 | Craft Fair |
| Nov. 27 | Thanksgiving Day |
| Dec. 8 | Vestry Meeting |
| Dec. 21 | Christmas Pageant & Greening of the Church
with soup & sandwich lunch to follow |

**A special Birthday Wish to Roberta Weidler
From the people of St.
Paul's on her
90th Birthday
November 4, 2014**



A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

**Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us
For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea,**

We thank you, Lord

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve

We thank you, Lord

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

We thank you, Lord

From the book of Common Prayer p837



WORDS OF WISDOM

The most important prayer in the world is

Just two words long:

“THANK YOU”

———Meister Eckhart———(1327 A.D.)