

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The

EPISTLE

December 2014



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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
Cell 464-8484

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

That sounds odd, doesn't it, but it is true. This year, the last day of November marked the beginning of the Church year and the start of Advent. So happy New Year and happy Advent.



As our culture has quickened its pace, in its rush towards Christmas, the Church has stood bulwark against it, using the season of Advent to cast a different vision of preparation for the birth of Jesus. The church has said slow down, find quiet, draw near to God's presence, and listen for His quiet calling to you. It's a good message, greatly needed to soothe our souls during the onslaught of commercialism.

I invite you to seek ways to slow down this Advent. Take a few minutes each day to find quiet. Consider what the Incarnation, the birth of Jesus, means to you. Find your soul's voice.

Your soul wants to have its say. The soul speaks in remarkable ways. First, the soul holds and cares for our life's purposes. Each one of us, each soul, has a unique set of purposes in the world. Every soul resonates with the world differently. When we are out of step with our soul and our purposes—be it at work or home—we find no peace. When our actions resonate with our soul, we discover peace. Equally, the soul is the seat of grief. When we grieve the loss of another or a dashed dream the pain emerges from our souls. Moreover, the soul holds the elixir of joy. When our actions resonate with our souls, we feel joy, which is far greater than feeling happy. There are other qualities and expressions of the soul, but these are particularly relevant this time of year.

At the beginning of this "New Year", this Advent, I invite you to give space for your soul to speak. Take time to ask yourself the following questions: Are my choices in line with my soul and life's purposes? *(continued on pg.2)*



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*

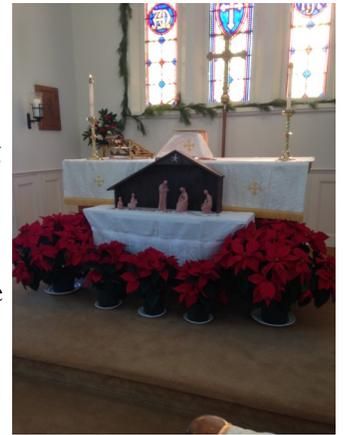
*Evening Prayer
6 PM Fridays*

What is it I am grieving? Where is the joy in my life? As you consider them, envision yourself laying these questions at the foot of the crib, where our Lord and Savior, wrapped in swaddling clothes, started his journey among us.



God bless you and your family. I look forward to seeing you in church. Listen for the bells!

Father Bob



Parents and Kids



You may have seen this sign on the parish hall lawn. Our Sunday School teachers and Father Bob came up with the idea for this program to help the children reconnect with the true meaning of Christmas.

The program will already have begun when you read this newsletter but we still have four Sundays in Advent when the children are welcome to attend. A family does not have to belong to St. Paul's to enjoy this program. Parents are invited to attend with their child or children. If the child is unable to come every week they are more than welcome to come whenever possible. Please let your friends, relatives and neighbors know about "Rediscovering Christmas."

Rural and Migrant Christmas Store

Donations of new, unwrapped (with original price tags) on the following items will be appreciated.

Sports equipment-baseballs/bats/soccer balls

Dolls—especially of African-American and Latino Heritage

Books— with African-American and Latino Heritage stories and books in English

Toys & Games appropriate for toddlers thru 14.

Items for teenagers— watches and gift cards are very popular



Please leave unwrapped gifts in the Parish hall. **Last date** to give a gift is **Sunday December 7th**. Thank you for participating in our Outreach Program.

Flowers for Advent and Christmas

This year we are trying something new in our preparation for Christmas. The vestry agreed that we would have altar flowers for the four Sundays in Advent, to brighten our spirits as we approach Christmas. It also means we have four additional Sundays for people to honor or remember someone by signing up on the chart to provide flowers for the altar.

Flower memorials for the Christmas Eve service will be done in the traditional way. Marilyn Kirchner will collect both money and names. **Checks and names can be sent to Marilyn Kirchner, 6 Talbot Drive, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569. e-mail names to UserK3939@aol.com.**



The following is a review of the process for signing up for flowers: There is a chart in the vestibule of the church with dates for the various Sundays. There is space for you to write your name and the name of the person/persons you want remembered. Anyone may do this for any free Sunday. The cost is \$32.00. If you would like to pair up with someone we could honor two sets of people. Then the cost would be \$16.00 each. Of course you would have to find someone who would agree to this arrangement.

On any Sunday that you have donated the altar flowers you may take the arrangements home with you. They are yours— you bought them! If you do not wish to take the flowers, or only one of the pair, tell someone, as the flowers might be able to go to a sick or housebound person.

Any suggestions for improvement to the system are welcome.

Debby Glynn

UPDATE ON FUNDRAISERS

Special thanks to the Ghee family for putting on a wonderful pork dinner again, as well as all the people who donated their time, talent, rolls, beverages, and the mouth watering apple desserts. Because of your dedication to our church family we had an excellent turnout, numerous comments of how delicious the food was and we made a profit of \$1062. Thanks also to Nancy Lutz who always manages to publicize our fundraisers and special events.

This event was followed in November by the Craft Fair that was chaired by Terri Ghee. Again donations of time and talent by our parish family who participated in setup, clean up and posting advertising posters was greatly appreciated. There was a nice turnout of both vendors and customers who were able to find gifts for the upcoming holidays.

A popular place was Chef Bob's kitchen where homemade soup, chili and hotdogs (with all the fixings) were a great hit and helped with the fundraising. Our profit from this event was well over \$500. Again, a big THANK YOU to all.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN is coming to a successful conclusion. Most pledges have stayed the same or increased. There are still a few 2015 pledge cards yet to come in. I am always amazed by the continued loving support in so many ways by all of you here at St. Paul's. We are truly a caring family parish.

Pledge statements for 2014 will be sent by late January. If you wish to have your donations credited to 2014 you will need to have them in by December 28th.

If you have any questions please contact Marilyn Kirchner.

LOOK AROUND- Have you noticed not only the new windows in the parish hall and also the valences which have been hung and look beautiful.

As you step inside the vestibule of the parish hall, look to your right and you will see not only the new defibrillator but the plaque which says "In Loving Memory" of Michael A. Wetzel.

Don't miss the weekly update of the "Rediscover Christmas" bulletin board created by our kids and their teachers.



**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.**

WHAT'S GOING ON

Dear fellow parishioners,

Once again we have had a busy month. On November 2nd I turned in our CROPwalk donations-an astonishing \$1400, with **Gloria Ghedini** being our top fundraiser. The money goes to alleviate hunger locally, nationally and internationally. That same day, **Roberta Weidler** celebrated her 90th birthday. Roberta thanks all at St. Paul's who sent her cards and gifts. She especially liked the cards made by the **Sunday School children**.

November 8th was cleanup day. **Bill Kirchner, Ken Towers, Jerry Ottaway, Fred Glynn, John Gruner** (who did I forget?) raked leaves and cut down the grasses by the Columbarium. **Candy Olson, Marilyn Kirchner and Debby Glynn** also did raking and gardening. The grounds look much improved as a result.

Liz Whitman, Debby Glynn, John Borchert and Father Flanagan attended the Diocesan Convention in Tarrytown on November 14 and 15. We were disappointed that **John**, who was running for the Standing Committee, wasn't elected. Next time.....

St. Paul's has a new **Facebook page**, thanks to **Amanda Evans and Nancy Lutz**. It has received many 'likes' already! Those of us at Convention were able to get the coat check lady to take our picture, and it was immediately put on the Facebook page. Anyone can visit this site by typing **https://www.facebook.com/stpaulspleasantvalley**

Our Advent program has already brought in some new faces to our Sunday School. The group is engaging in activities in preparation for Christmas, one of which is an Advent Calendar which you can view on the Sunday School bulletin board. We will hear more about the program as it develops. Our thanks to **Lesley Sprauer and Amanda Evans**, our Sunday School teachers.

The lovely crèche, outside the church, is the idea of **Amanda Evans**. Her father built the stable, and we purchased figures to go in it. I know we will all enjoy it as we pass by.

As an experiment **we are having flowers on the altar during Advent**. (See article on page 2). We will also be putting up wreaths (without the bows) in the church windows for the third Sunday in Advent. Let us know how you like this. **The traditional greening of the church will still take place on December 21 after the 10 o'clock service, followed by a light lunch.**

One final note. Our **Adams cards** have brought in around \$2000 for St. Paul's already! **We have recently purchased extra \$25 cards with the thought that some of you might like to given them as gifts during the holidays. It is a nice present and helps St. Paul's at the same time.**

I hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving.

Debby Glynn

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

1. Bill & Ingrid Kern
2. Linda Rothman
3. Christi Battistoni
6. William Kern
9. Rebecca Tumbarello
Stephen Garrison
10. Elissa Colgan
11. Todd Hixon
Zachary Ferris
12. Barbara Rawls
15. Ellen Towers
19. Turk Hassan
Arlene Marchant
24. William Ottaway
26. Gina Olson
28. Sean House
Ryan Caferra
29. Esther Ottaway
Kyle Beyer
30. Laura Wetzel
31. Tristan Battistoni

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS AT ST. PAUL'S

- Dec. 6&7** Food Wagon at Fabulous Firs
- Dec. 8th** Vestry Meeting
- Dec. 12&13** Food Wagon at Fabulous Firs
- Dec. 14** Adult Baptism
- Dec. 20** 11a.m. Altar Guild Members meet at the Church to clean and polish.
- Dec. 21** 11 a.m. Greening of the Church
Following by a light lunch.
- Dec. 24** Christmas Eve Service
5:45– Christmas Carols
6 p.m. Holy Communion-Rite II
- Dec. 25** Christmas Day

Be sure to visit the Thrift Shop on Wednesdays and Saturdays and bring friends and neighbors for lightly used gifts and decorations for Christmas. If you would like to volunteer contact Ginny Johnson at 845-635-2702

Mark your calendars– January 9th @7 PM– Voices of Glory at the First Presbyterian Church– Pleasant Valley

EVENING PRAYER

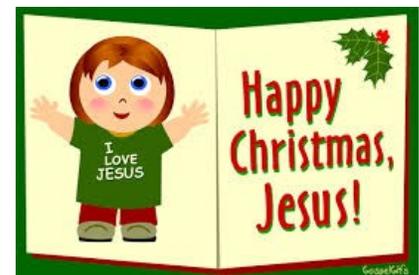
FRIDAY EVENINGS 6-6:45 In the Church

Are you overwhelmed by the pressures of preparing for the Holidays? Think about stopping by St. Paul's to join us for **Evening Prayer**. You do not need to be a member of our parish. We are a small group who meet each week informally. Come as you are. You are welcome even if you come in a bit late. The door is open. If you need to leave during the service we understand. Even a few minutes sitting with us and sharing in prayer to our Lord will refresh you. The lights and the heat will be on and you will find comfort and friendship. **Everyone is welcome!**

WORDS OF WISDOM

Christmas Gift Suggestions

- To your enemy, forgiveness
 - To an opponent, tolerance
 - To a friend, your heart
 - To a customer, service
 - To all, charity
 - To every child, a good example
 - To yourself, respect
- Oren Arnold*



“GOD BLESS US EVERYONE!” said Tiny Tim.

Charles Dickens