

Our mission at St. Paul's is to be a community reflecting and demonstrating God's compassion and love to all through prayer, education and outreach.

ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING

All those who have an active interest in the life of St Paul's are more than welcome to participate in the annual meeting. Everyone who is present with us strengthens our fellowship. Voting at the annual meeting is limited according the church Canons:

Diocese of Vermont: Canon 13

Those who are communicants in good standing and are enrolled on the canonical register of the Parish are eligible to vote in the annual meeting. Similarly, delegates to various offices within the church also need to be Communicants in good standing. Communicants in good standing are defined by the Canons as:

The Episcopal Church: Canon 17

The Canons (regulations by which the church is governed) of the National Church indicate that all whose Baptisms have been duly recorded in this Church are members thereof, that members sixteen years or older are to be considered adult members. All communicants of this Church, who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless good cause prevent, and have been faithful in working, praying and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God, are to be considered communicants in good standing.

The Diocesan Canon III, Canon 13.6

Those persons who are entitled to vote in a Parish meeting are defined as follows: those persons who are communicants in good standing and are enrolled upon the canonical register of the Parish or Mission in which they habitually worship.

ELECTIONS:

Vestry: Three members; to serve for three years
 Treasurer
 Assistant treasurer
 Senior warden (appointed by the priest)
 Junior Warden (elected by the vestry)
 Three delegates and three alternates to Diocesan Convention
 Delegates to Deanery Chapter (no more than three)

The Wardens and Vestry announce with regret that Helen Vrooman, our Treasurer for 22 years, is retiring. We express our gratitude to her for her years of faithful service.

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PARISH OFFICERS 2007

Interim Rector: The Rev. William Davidson
Deacon: The Rev. Lucy Pellegrini
Senior Warden: Carol Knauss
Junior Warden: Judy Langeway (January –June)

The Vestry:

Term Ending 2008 Tim Earle, Jeanne Wisner, Claire Clay
Term Ending 2009 Sarah Cowan, Bootsie Morris, Nathan Merrill
(resigned), Madelaine Calise, Carol Knauss
Term Ending 2010 Judy Langeway

Clerk of the Vestry: Lenore Morse

Treasurer: Helen Vrooman

Assistant Treasurer: Betty Bristol

Designated Funds Treasurer: Betty Bristol

Delegates to Diocesan Convention: Mary Gordon, Madelaine Calise, Jeanne Wisner

Alternates to Diocesan Convention: Carol Knauss, Claire Clay

MDC Committee: Claire Clay, Sarah Cowan, Tim Earle, Mary Gordon
Bob Laidman (chair), Lee Martel and Jeanne Wisner

Other Ministries: Prayers, Mind and Deeds of Christ

Acolytes:

Altar Guild: Martha Clark, Carol Knauss

Chalice Bearers: Betty Bristol, Carol Knauss, Tim Earle, Nathan Merrill

Child Care: Agnes Pudvah

Deanery Representative: Carol Knauss, Madelaine Calise

ECW: President: Carol Knauss, Treasurer: Penny
Goodkind, Secretary: Pat Barrows

Epistle: Pat Barrows (editor), Judy Martel, Penny Goodkind,
Judi Honeywood

Finance Committee:	Betty Bristol, Helen Vrooman, Sarah Cowan
Flower Guild:	Lenore Morse
Food Shelf:	Judy & Lee Martel
Hospitality:	Cricket Laidman
Leaflets:	Pat Barrows, Penny Goodkind
Lectors:	Bill Hanson, Tim Earle, Bob Laidman, Betty Bristol, Sarah Cowan, Seth Cowan, Madelaine Calise, George Chauvin, Nan Guilmette
Memorial Day:	Mary Cassidy, Bonnie Huizenga
Mulch:	Pat Barrows, Lee & Judy Martel
Organist & Choir Director:	Judy Woods
Pastoral Care Committee:	Laurie Earle, Mary Gordon, Marcie Merryman-Means, Jeanne Wisner
Sexton:	Beth McAllister
Steward:	Bob Laidman
Sunday School:	Madelaine Calise
Youth Ministry:	Diane Merrill, Sarah Cowan
Welcomers:	Cricket Laidman, Lenore Morse, Claire Clay, Betty Bristol, Greg Hamilton

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
January 28, 2007

Present: Betty Bristol, Madelaine Calise, Claire Clay, Albert D. DeVine, The Rev. Bill Davidson, Tim Earle, Penny Goodkind, Mary Gordon, Anna M. Haigis, Bill Hanson, Calvin Jay, Bob Laidman, Cricket Laidman, Alan Langeway, Judy Langeway, Judith Martel, Lee Martel, Connor Merrill, David Merrill, Diane Merrill, Nate Merrill, Mary Morris, The Rev. Lucy Pellegrini, Barent Vrooman, Helen Vrooman, Jeanne Wisner.

After Carol Knauss called the meeting to order at 11:28 a.m., The Rev. Lucy Pellegrini offered the opening prayer. Carol announced that the Ministry Discernment Committee report would be presented in the parish hall before lunch and asked if anyone wished to add to the agenda. Next Carol asked for a motion regarding the Annual Meeting minutes from February 5, 2006. Bill Hanson made the motion to accept the minutes as submitted; the motion was seconded by Jeanne Wisner and passed unanimously.

Carol Knauss then turned to elections and explained the vestry's decision to return to a nine-member vestry. Relative to the preceding, two vestry positions were open: one for one year to complete Calvin Jay's term and one three-year term to replace Pat Barrows. Bill Hanson nominated Claire Clay for the one-year term; the nomination was seconded by Madelaine Calise and with no further nominations, Claire Clay was elected by a unanimous vote. Responding to Carol's request for nominations for the three-year term, Mary Gordon nominated Judy Langeway; the nomination was seconded by Claire Clay and with no further nominations, Judy Langeway was elected by a unanimous vote.

Turning to election of the Diocesan Convention delegates and alternates, Carol Knauss explained that delegates must attend a Saturday preconvention session plus the Friday and Saturday convention sessions early in November. Claire Clay stated that she would appreciate a formal report from delegates regarding actions at the convention as well as distribution of relevant materials. The Rev. Pellegrini responded that last year the Diocesan Convention had focused on the theme Cathedral without Walls, which emphasized networking with Burlington social agencies and, therefore, had little relevance for local parishes. In addition, Jeanne Wisner noted the importance of personal networking at the convention. Before Carol Knauss called for nominations, she stated that the senior warden need not be a delegate, and having attended the convention for several years, she would prefer to see another parishioner do so. Claire Clay nominated Jeanne Wisner, second by Bill Hanson; Mary Gordon was nominated by Jeanne Wisner, second by Bill Hanson; Madelaine Calise was nominated by Claire Clay, second by Bill Hanson. With no further nominations for delegates, the secretary was instructed to cast one ballot for Jeanne Wisner, Mary Gordon, and Madelaine Calise. Next, Carol called for alternates, who would attend if an elected delegate was unable to do so. Following clarification regarding the number of alternates, Carol called for nominations for two alternates. Claire Clay was nominated by Jeanne Wisner, with the second by Mary Gordon; Carol Knauss was nominated by Judy Martel, second by Mary Gordon. With no further nominations, the parish agreed to close nominations and ask the secretary to cast one ballot for Claire Clay and Carol Knauss as alternates to the convention.

Regarding the Otter Creek Deanery, Carol requested nomination of two delegates and observed that the deanery had not met last year. The Rev. Bill Davidson suggested that while this deanery was currently inactive, much could be accomplished by this group of parishes, and he offered to discuss the potential with clergy of the various churches in the Otter Creek Deanery. Further discussion involved the number of delegates and time served. After clarification from the canons, Carol Knauss and Madelaine Calise agreed to serve a two-year term until 2008, having been elected as deanery delegates at the February 5, 2006 meeting.

The Rev. Bill Davidson presented the budget for 2007. Initially, he expressed appreciation to the Finance Committee of Betty Bristol, Sarah Cowan, and Helen Vrooman for preparation of the 2007 budget which had been approved by the vestry at their January meeting. Budget pages in the Annual Reports 2006 included the following: 1) the 2006 operating budget report; 2) the 2006 designated funds report; 3) the 2007 budget, draft

#1 (line items #1-40 listed); 4) the annualized budget with 12 months rector compensation for ½ time, ¾ time and full time rector; and 5) rector compensation estimate for ½ time, ¾ time, and full time. Handouts for the complete 2007 itemized budget were also distributed. The Rev. Davidson explained the vestry's decision not to limit the search process to a full or part time commitment and, consequently, to identify candidates that would best match the profile document compiled by the MDC. The vestry also agreed to discuss existing and potential budget problems with the final candidates as well as the congregation's intent to balance the budget for 2007 and thereafter. He noted that projected income for 2007 is higher than that of 2006 and he felt that, with effort, pledges for 2008 would again increase. Further, line item expenses for 2007 for properties, worship, programs, and the diocese had been estimated similar to those of the preceding year. Finally, The Rev. Davidson explained the reasoning behind figures stated for the Rector Compensation Estimate relative to a full time, ¾ time, and ½ time priest. Following brief comments by Betty Bristol regarding the designated funds report, Lee Martel asked her what stipulations govern the various funds. Betty explained several and agreed to provide additional information in the next newsletter. Handouts regarding pledges, by amount and number, were distributed, and Carol Knauss expressed the congregation's appreciation for preparation and presentation of the financial reports.

In response to Carol's request for comments, The Rev. Davidson stated that he had nothing to add beyond his letter in the Annual Report but would propose a weekly Lenten program under new business. Similarly, The Rev. Lucy Pellegrini said she had nothing to add to her comments in the Annual Report. Next, Carol expressed the appreciation of the congregation to Greg Hamilton and Calvin Jay for their service on the vestry, especially regarding financial issues. Recognizing Pat Barrows, the junior warden for six years, Carol noted the many instances of Pat's service, her effective crisis management in the face of emergencies and substantial efforts to maintain and oversee repairs of the church, parish hall, and rectory. Bill Hanson added that very few people realize the incredible amount of time required to serve as junior warden. With no further old business, Carol called for a five minute recess to set up the projector and regroup for the Ministry Discernment Committee (MDC) Report in the parish hall.

Before the report, the MDC provided a musical interlude, with original lyrics to Onward Christian Soldiers sung by the committee. At 12:40 p.m., Chairman Bob Laidman introduced the Self Study Presentation, noting that results were based on responses to fifty-three questionnaires (200 responses to each questionnaire). Handouts provided a paper representation of the power point presentation, and a copy of the handout is attached to the minutes. Bob cited the four major questions and summarized responses from the questionnaires. Questions were as follows: 1) What are we being called to be as the Episcopal Church in this town? 2) What are our strengths and our gifts? 3) What challenges lie ahead for us? and 4) What sort of clergy leadership will we require to bring out the best in all of us? Under desired rector ministry specialties, Bob cited the following: 1) preaching/public speaking; 2) youth work; 3) church growth/development; 4) spiritual guidance; 5) pastoral care; and 6) liturgy. Noting that the most important clergy characteristic cited was "preaching that is scripture based and meaningful," Bob listed desired sermon content as follows: 1) scriptural interpretation; 2) reference to current events; 3) Christian life; 4) humor; and 5) rector's personal experience.

In addition, Bob described the next steps in the search process as follows: 1) MDC will write and review the profile document; 2) MDC will review the profile with the consultant; 3) vestry will review the profile document; 4) parishioners will review the profile; 5) diocesan clergy will review the profile; and 5) the MDC will publish the profile document. Next, the Church Deployment Office (CDO) will forward the profile to the national Episcopal Church offices for review and the effort to match the needs of St. Paul's with candidates seeking a parish. Subsequently, results from the CDO should be received in five or six weeks and include resumes and other relevant information. Following review of documents, phone interviews, and other necessary communications, the MDC will narrow the potential candidates to two or three individuals for the vestry to consider. In closing, Bob expressed appreciation to the members of the MDC who met every Wednesday evening since September and also worked independently reviewing questionnaires, etc. MDC members are Claire Clay, Sarah Cowan, Tim Earle, Mary Gordon, Bob Laidman, Lee Martel, and

Jeanne Wisner. The MDC also recognized and applauded the very effective and efficient leadership of Bob Laidman as chairman.

When Carol Knauss requested further discussion regarding items of new business, Bill Davidson replied that he would explain his proposal for a Lenten program during lunch. Finally, Carol expressed the parish's appreciation to Judy and Lee Martel for their many contributions, relative to the community food shelf and generous help in maintaining the buildings and grounds—e.g., checking the buildings weekly, shoveling snow, weeding gardens, mowing the lawn, and doing many other tasks. Madelaine Calise made the motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Mary Gordon and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lenore Morse

REPORT FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR

On Traveling Lightly: In the 10th Chapter of Luke's Gospel, the author tells us that Jesus told his first followers to carry little as they journeyed through life as his disciples. In fact his words are, "Carry no purse or pack, and make your journey barefoot." We might understand his statement to mean that we need little "baggage" to be faithful Christians.

It has been my privilege to be a part of the parish life of St. Paul's for more than a year and a half. During that time you have invited me into your community, a community of faithful folk who love the Lord and strive mightily to love each other, the stranger, and all of God's creation. Together we have seen our parish welcome new faces into our midst, reach out to those in need throughout the world, and grow in our understanding of what being a Christian means. Our time together has not been without challenges, however. But even when faced with problems, you usually land on your feet.

The longer that I am a part of the life of any parish, the more I become convinced that there are precious few things that are really important in our common life. If we keep our eyes focused on the love of God and the love of our neighbor, there is little else that matters all that much. My prayer for St. Paul's as you enter this new phase of your life as a Christian community is that you will "travel light." Stay close to the Lord and to each other. And . . . don't hesitate to laugh a lot.

William A. Davidson

Deacon's Annual Report 2008

I continue to give thanks to God that I am part of the St. Paul's community. While there are many ways that we are stretched, there always seems to be some way to respond to the needs within and outside the parish.

In January and in May, the parish responded to needs from Mothers Without Borders, both by volunteering in the Sew-a-thon, and by contributing to and assembling Newborn packs. Many were involved in a fundraiser for livestock for ER-D in January, for the CROP walk in September, in October for the Nets for Life campaign, and in the Alternative Gifts Boutique in December. At the end of the year, checks were sent from Outreach to John Graham Shelter, the Vergennes Food Shelf, the Open Door Clinic, Womensafe, and

Vermont Children's Aid Society. Another was sent to Central Asia Institute, to support the work of building schools in Pakistan as begun by Greg Mortensen.

The parish continues to be an active supporter of the Vergennes Food Shelf through its weekly donations, and is represented at the Food Shelf through the ongoing efforts of Judy and Lee Martel. The parish is also supporting the Migrant Workers' Dinners by preparing and serving a meal at a local church. The Parishioners' Pantry (i.e. the freezer) is continually restocked with manageable portions of soups and casseroles for distribution to those who greatly appreciate them.

The Pastoral Care Committee continues to respond to both acute and long-term needs in the parish. Many have been part of Aggie's Army, as drivers, notably Jeanne Wisner, Mary Gordon, and Laurie Earle, and supporters and cooks. Marci Means continues to coordinate a large number of willing cooks to provide meals in times of need or crisis. In December, the Committee distributed small plates of cookies to some of our elders and shut-ins. Some of the members of the Committee have themselves been affected by changes in their own lives, but all have been active in a variety of ways.

My ministry at St. Paul's continues to include hospital visits and support to parishioners and families, home visits, phone calls, and coordinating the work of the Pastoral Care Committee. I continue to be an advocate for the marginalized in this society and throughout the world, particularly our elders and those grappling with the effects of poverty. I know that the time spent working with each person is indeed a blessing.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Lucy C.B. Pellegrini
Deacon

Report of the Senior Warden Annual Meeting, 2008

I had a friend who, when she was asked how she was, would invariably reply, "I'm in pretty good shape for the shape I'm in." While I was thinking about our parish, I was reminded of that response, because we at St Paul's are in fact, in "pretty good shape" for the shape we're in.

We have good cause to rejoice in our shape. We have four or five new families who have begun active participation in our parish life. We have a new roof over our church heads, and we have a new furnace under our rectory feet. There is uncracked (really!) glass in our porch windows (Madelaine has learned to be a glazier in the process of tackling that job!); the porch windows and screens and the front door has been repainted; there is a nice new door between the rectory kitchen and the back room that has now become the parish office. Rehab of the rectory continues, with interior painting ongoing and new light fixtures installed. We are involved in community needs, as we continue contributions to the food shelf, heating needs, outreach to migrant workers in the area and to Episcopal Relief and Development. We have a faithful Ministry Discernment Committee whose members press on with the task the vestry has given them of finding a new rector for St. Paul's. Our Sunday School program is growing slowly but steadily, and volunteers have come forward willing to teach. Bill and Lucy offer enriching worship and sermons, keep us on the straight and narrow (well, they try to), and are caring and compassionate pastors to us all. So we're not in bad shape at all, considering the shape we are in.

We wouldn't be so fortunate if there weren't so many willing hands in our parish, and those hands do a huge amount of work to get us in shape and keep us there. As I noted last year, multi-tasking has been a way of life at St Paul's, and it remains so. Much of our success comes from people who over and over step forward

to take on a job-it needs to be done, so someone goes to the plate and swings. From money to music, from painting to praying, from copying to collating, from Mulch Day to Memorial Day, *you* make the difference and create the successes. They don't happen without you.

All of that said, we can't allow ourselves to rest on our laurels of success and fall out of shape. The physical plant requires ongoing maintenance; our spiritual lives need an occasional brush up; we need more people to be involved with coffee hour and Sunday School; the choir would like a few new voices. If you think that there's really nothing that needs doing, think again! For one thing, we are re-organizing our financial life to come into compliance with Diocesan and National Church requirements; we will need people to step in and help with several aspects of the bookkeeping picture. For another, the front porch of the rectory is in need of repair, and it also needs some sort of shelter over it so that ice, snow and rain don't cascade down one's neck as he or she goes in and out. That's a project that needs attention soon, not only to improve the appearance of the building, but for safety reasons. So much for nothing that needs doing! There are a lot of projects of all sorts on the table, waiting to be done; we'll keep chipping away at the pile, with your help.

This report is offered as a "thank-you" to Almighty God, for His goodness in blessing this parish with caring and willing members, new and old; for the work that they all do to make our dreams for our parish home and the larger community a reality; for their careful planning and thought that goes into our many projects; for their financial contributions; and for their ongoing prayers that support our dreams. In the coming year, with God's help, we will continue to "work, pray and give for the spread of His kingdom."

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Knauss
Senior Warden



RECTORY REHAB REPORT

We began the year with a full-page list of projects large and small necessary to make this wonderful house into a home we could proudly offer a new minister. Thanks to an amazing response from many members of the congregation we succeeded in raising the funds to rip out and replace the old heating system with an efficient Buderus boiler and slim line radiators. To keep the heat in all broken windows were replaced and reglazed. The 15 porch panels and front entrance were restored and painted.

Additional donations of time and money enabled the following to be completed:

- Painting of living room, dining room and foyer.
- Purchase and installation of light fixtures.
- Purchase of privacy shades.
- Installation of new electrical outlets.
- Full cleaning thanks to a volunteer crew from VUHS.
- Floor repair necessary after heating installation.
- Attic & garage cleaned out.
- Exterior doors weather-stripped.
- Kitchen cleaning.

Office:

- Donation of new Dell computer, fax machine & printer.
- Installation of above.

At time of writing we have been blessed with an offer to paint the kitchen cabinets and perhaps buff the floors downstairs.

Much as I would love to mention all individuals involved in this huge project, I will be sure to miss someone so I will keep it to a big THANK YOU to all for your time, money, prayers and hugs. Without you I would still be staring at an overwhelming list! We still have the following to address in order of priority but I am confident that we can complete them before too long:

- Boxing in exposed heating lines.
- Funding allocation to repaint second floor – new minister’s choice.
- Backyard cleanup (volunteers lined up already!).
- Completing painting interior of porch.
- Redoing stoop.
- Construction of front porch as it used to be.

Respectfully submitted,
Madelaine Calise



SUNDAY SCHOOL, YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

The words growth and community come to mind when looking back on the past twelve months. We began with Andrew, Brett and Alex and now we are thrilled to welcome at least SIXTEEN new young children to our fold. If they all come down from the hills that’s a lot of sheep but thanks to a wonderful group of volunteers, we have great shepherds too! Let’s keep up the good work. We are truly Living the Good News and I am so grateful to all my friends at St. Paul’s who have given me the strength and support to keep going when I needed it. We have come along way with God’s help. Here’s a look back at some of the highlights of the year.

January brought many of us together for a very successful snowy Walk for the Animals. All ages participated and managed to raise over \$800.00 for ERD’s Gifts For Life program. The children and youth delighted in knowing how many chickens, goats, bees etc they provided for sustainable living in underdeveloped countries and even pinpointed the countries on a globe.

Spring, in true Vermont style had Alex, Brett and Andrew Woods planting sunflowers and zinnias in the rectory flowerbeds to show the circle of life to the whole of Vergennes and by September the sunflowers had grown even taller than the boys. I hope you all saw the wonderful group photo in the Addison Independent who has given us good coverage this year – yeah! We grew in other directions too as we were blessed, thanks to Meg Olsen, with Jennifer, Mike & A.J. Cassarino and Rebecca, George & Alistair Chauvin who have sown their seeds of energy and enthusiasm to grow the Sunday School in just a few months. I extend thanks to all of you who volunteered so readily.

After a summer break, we had a full volunteer sheet and were off and running using our mini-altar for candle lighting, joining in a prayer ring and lesson time using our newly painted ‘calendar’ colored little chairs. We were grateful for Judy Woods’ frequent visits to lead us in upbeat songs – she has quite a repertoire and I am hopeful as time goes on we will work our way to having an adorable cherub choir. In September a large group gathered at Fr. Bill’s Prestwick Farm for a wonderful Eucharist picnic, tractor rides and other fun activities. Thank you Fr. Bill for sharing your beautiful home. Fall saw us donning our creative costumes, and learning the origin of Halloween. Thanks to Claire Clay’s art supplies we painted our own individual pumpkins which we paraded up to the altar for all to admire. Advent season was a lesson in patience and

waiting for Jesus made easier with the making of our own Advent wreaths. Special thanks to Margaret Lowe, Claire and Aggie for their ingenuity in his project.

Our older members are not to be forgotten. Helen, Nick and Connor researched and organized an Alternative Gift boutique in early December. It was a wonderful opportunity to purchase jewelry, note cards, coffee and other gifts knowing that the money raised would be for the benefit of the impoverished in Africa. They raised over \$1300.00 and we are so proud of their efforts. Earlier we were sad to say goodbye to Nate Merrill and Seth Cowan who we are glad to hear are loving college life. They seem so mature all of a sudden. We welcomed them back at the 4.00 pm Family Christmas service where Nate read the lesson and Seth added his lovely voice to the carol singing. For those of you who missed it WE HAD A PAGEANT! Kudos to Jennifer, Meg, Rebecca & Cricket who put it all together with such grace and to all the children who performed so beautifully. Father Bill was the talented playwright and Helen Cowan was the perfect narrator and got us all in the Christmas spirit. Iain Olsen had the best seat in the house, at the foot of the altar while his sister Ryley (Mary) and A.J. (Joseph) tended to baby Jesus. Hailey White hovered angelically over the scene of shepherd Alistair and a very woolly sheep, (Clarinda). Wise men Woods bearing gifts followed the star to complete the Christmas story.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to a visit from Connie Saegar-Proctor, the Diocesan head of children and youth ministry. We know she will inspire us to continue to do God's will in giving our children a solid foundation in Christian education.

Respectfully submitted,
Madelaine Calise



MEMORIAL DAY

2007 was another successful Memorial Day for St. Paul's. A hardworking group gathered together to sell our usual of fried bread dough, as well as cotton candy, hot dogs, corn dogs, soda and water.

We ended the day with a profit of \$1382.45, with a little given to Jackman Fuels for fuel assistance. Thank you to all who so generously donated food, supplies, and your time to this effort. We couldn't have done it without you! Please consider joining us this coming Memorial Day.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Cassidy



The Epistle, as in past years, is published once a month. The staff consists of Judy Martel, Penelope Goodkind and Pat Barrows. Judi Honeywood is the contributor of the art work. Pictures and contributions are welcome and will be printed as space allows. If you have information that would be of interest to the parish please let us know. This is your paper.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pat Barrows, Editor

COCOA MULCH REPORT

<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Deposit</u>	\$6890.00
4/20/07 Postal Service	\$125.00	\$6765.00
4/25/07 Precision Print	\$221.00	\$6544.00
5/14/07 Steady Transport	\$935.00	\$5609.00
5/14/07 Hershey Choc.	\$2640.00	\$2969.00
Tithe: Jackman Fuels (heat for the needy)	\$296.00	\$2573.00

The cocoa mulch project was started sixteen years ago to pay off the church indebtedness. We met that goal and since then it has allowed us to make numerous improvements to the church property as well as tithing to helping agencies.

But this year (2008) Hershey is outsourcing the cocoa shells so the cost to us is much higher. Due to the high cost of fuel the trucking will also rise. The decision has been made (regretfully) to discontinue the project. We always knew that there would come a year when we could no longer continue. This is the year. But we have had a good run!!!

Respectfully Submitted,
Pat Barrows



FLOWER GUILD

During 2007, the members of the Flower Guild supplied and arranged flowers on the altar most Sundays, except during Lent. On Easter and Christmas and for special memorials and celebrations parishioners contributed flowers. The generosity of parishioners at Christmas and Easter has been especially appreciated. Besides the gifts outright for Christmas wreaths and other decorations, parishioners gave \$304 for Christmas poinsettias. In addition, many parishioners joined Flower Guild members in decorating the church for Christmas and, at a moment's notice, provided much needed manpower to take down the decorations. Further, the December 31, 2007 balance in the Flower Guild account of Designated Funds was \$1,307.71; under budgeted funds for the Flower Guild, line #59, 2007 expenses matched the amount budgeted at \$200. Members of the 2007 Flower Guild were Claire Clay, Mary Gordon, Carol Knauss, Diane Merrill, Bootsie Morris, Lenore Morse, Ann Sevee, and Jeanne Wisner. Anyone interested in giving memorial flowers or serving on the Flower Guild should call Lenore Morse at 877-2477.

Respectfully submitted,
Lenore Morse



Our regular members are: Jeanne Wisner, Cricket Laidman, Madeleine Calise, Bonnie Huizenga, Bob Laidman, Johna Tierney. Judy Martel and Carol Knauss join us occasionally, and thank you to Carol who fills in when Judy W. is away.

We hope the congregation is blest and God is praised by our mix of new and old anthems as well as the folk music on Family Sunday. We have appreciated using the piano for the folk service and for some anthems.

Also very much appreciated are Johna Tierney and Solon Coburn on their guitars and Bob Laidman on his harmonica.

Our Christmas caroling was quite a wet success! Some of the congregation and other friends joined us for our "Singing in the Rain Tour" to the Vergennes Residential Care Home, down Main Street to the John Graham Shelter with a jaunt to Anne Palmer's and the Olsens on Mountain View Lane. The Olsens met us at the door with Ryley and a plat of cookies in hand! It gave us enough energy to get back to St. Paul's for a yummy supper.

The Sunday School children have been keeping many different beats with us on their percussion instruments! They are always welcome, and so is everyone to give Judy a hymn request and join us for our practices at 7 pm on Tuesdays in the parish hall.

Singing Praises,
Judy Woods

MINISTRY DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE

The Ministry Discernment Committee started the year by presenting the results of our St. Paul's self-study at the 2007 Annual meeting. The report was well received and has provided a solid reference for St. Paul's as we move forward in the search for a rector and as a guideline for mission, programs and facilities. The vestry made a decision to support our search for a full-time rector with the caveat that they would also consider a well qualified part-time clergy if that person preferred a part-time arrangement. This is the first time in over twenty years that St. Paul's has considered a full-time rector and we are excited about the possibility.

The MDC spent January through April writing, reviewing, editing and publishing a brochure and a Parish Profile document. The profile was reviewed and presented to the vestry, Lynn Bates and Rev. Thad Bennett from the diocese and Rev. Rolfe Lawson (our consultant) at a pot-luck dinner in April. The Parish Profile provides a description of our ministries, goals, finances, and local parish life for candidates. We updated St. Paul's web site <http://www.saintpaulsvergennes.org> and added two major web pages, one for MDC information and one for the monthly Epistle newsletters. The web page for Ministry Discernment includes downloadable copies of the report presented at last year's annual meeting, as well as the Parish Profile and the information brochure that we developed as a brief handout for the diocesan deployment person. The newsletter web page includes several months of the Epistle which candidates can download and review to get to know what St. Paul's is doing in our community.

From May through the end of the year we experienced the good and bad parts of the search process. We filled out a parish CDO (Church Deployment Office) form and submitted it to the big central computer at the Episcopal offices in New York City. That system found 40 clergy that matched our criteria. From that point we sifted through the profiles of all these 40 potential candidates and selected 9 for further consideration. This short list was then submitted to the diocese for further checking. The list was based upon raw data and without any indication if these were people actually looking for a new position. In early July we then received a list of 14 names back from the diocese. These were people who had verified they would participate in the search process. We then sent an invitational letter on August 21st to these potential

candidates which included a request to answer three essay questions within two weeks. Responses took a few weeks longer than expected. To stimulate more responses we sent a reminder email to each in mid September. Some USmail and email messages bounced. Some candidates later withdrew their names after finding other positions and others had circumstances forcing them to withdraw. We ended up with two candidates after this process. Evaluation criteria and interview questions were then determined by the committee. Telephone interviews were conducted with each candidate. We became more optimistic and we sent two teams of two MDC people to visit each of these two candidates to discern if there was a good match. This resulted in one final candidate from the initial July list. That candidate has come to Vergennes and interviewed with both MDC and vestry.

The MDC will be bringing a recommendation to the vestry in January. If the vestry decides to call a candidate and if a candidate then accepts the call, then the MDC will have completed the task. Otherwise we will need to restart the search, obtain more candidates and go through the process again. This might take another three to four months. Please pray for a successful search. The Ministry Discernment Committee includes Jeanne Wisner, Lee Martel, Claire Clay, Mary Gordon, Tim Earle, Sarah Cowan and Bob Laidman.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Laidman

ALTAR GUILD

Members: Martha Clark, Directress, Carol Knauss, Betty Bristol, Anne Palmer (ret.)

Brass Polishers: Mary Gordon, Bootsie Morris. The Altar Guild is responsible for the care and preparation of the Sanctuary, sacred vessels and vestments used in our services. It is a quiet ministry and a rewarding one. We would welcome new members to share in this work.

Martha Clark, Directress

ECW FINANCIAL REPORT 2007

Forward	\$1432.00
Disbursements	
1. Honeywood Memorial Expense	\$31.29
2. Coffee urn for parish hall	\$188.50
3. Broderick Automotive (Car repair for needy person)	\$50.00
Total Disbursements	\$269.79
Income	\$0.00
Interest	\$13.90
Balance in account	\$1176.11

Respectfully submitted
Penny Goodkind, Treasurer