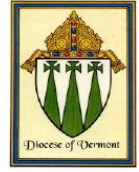


St. Paul's Epistle



FEBRUARY 2011

Vergennes, Vermont
Friday, January 21, 2011
Agnes, Martyr at Rome, 304

Dear People of St. Paul's Church,

A few days ago while shoveling snow for the umpteenth time this season, I looked skyward and thought, "Enough manna from heaven already!" Almost immediately however, I was embarrassed by such complaining. The blessings of God come in many forms, yet it's sometimes difficult to recognize that fact. Beyond the visual beauty of snow, there is of course its vital role in re-watering the earth for our benefit. Relevant words about nature's cycle and a vision of spring are contained in one of the scriptures appointed for today's feast of St. Agnes. "The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom." [Song of Solomon 2: 12-13] So let me revise my exasperation: "Thank you, God, for the gift of snow." Or as Canticle 1 in Morning Prayer puts it,

O ye dews and frost, bless ye the Lord;
O ye frost and cold, bless ye the Lord;
O ye ice and snow, bless ye the Lord;
praise him and magnify him forever.

While on this subject I want to thank publicly those I'm aware of who've been removing snow from the ramps, steps, and sidewalks around the church. Chris Hale, Nick Earle, Bob and Cricket Laidman all deserve our thanks for enabling access into the church and parish hall. It is such cooperative effort that enhances our common life. This coming Sunday is the Annual Meeting of the Parish. This is especially an occasion to celebrate the faith we share. It is a time to evaluate the year past and to envision the future as we attempt to become more effective purveyors of the Good News.

In February there are only two major Holy Days. St. Paul's Church will offer celebrations of Eucharist at 12 noon for each:

Wednesday, February 2, The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple
Thursday, February 24, Feast of Saint Matthias the Apostle

Finally, congratulations to the Guilmette family. Del Philip was born on January 14 and joins Nate, Nan, and Louisa. Best wishes to all of them and to our growing congregation. May God please bless us all.

In the joy of our Savior,

Alan +

FEBRUARY 2011 AT ST. PAUL'S, VERGENNES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30 am Fresh Start Meeting 7pm Choir	2 Feast of the Presentation Noon Holy Eucharist Rite I	3	4 8pm AA	5
6 5 Epiphany 8am Eucharist 10am Sunday School 10am Eucharist 7pm AA	7	8 5:30pm Liturgical Commission 7 pm choir	9	10	11 8pm AA	12
13 6 Epiphany 8am Eucharist 10am Family Service 7pm AA	14	15 7pm Vestry 7 pm choir	16	17	18 8pm AA	19 EPISTLE DEADLINE Submissions to: pbarrows@gmavt.net jerm@gmavt.net
20 7 Epiphany 8am Eucharist 10am Sunday School 10am Eucharist 7pm AA	21	22 7 pm choir	23 10:30 Morning Prayer Service Vergennes Community Care Home	24 St. Matthias the Apostle Noon Holy Eucharist Rite I	25 8pm AA	26 9:30 Prayer and Healing Group
27 8 Epiphany 8am Eucharist 10am Sunday School 10am Eucharist 7pm AA	28					

IF YOU CANNOT SERVE ON THE DAY SHOWN PLEASE ARRANGE TO SWITCH SUNDAYS WITH SOMEONE. THANK YOU.

FEBRUARY SUNDAY CHART

<u>Date</u>	<u>Flower Guild</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Chalice</u>	<u>Welcome Comm.</u>	<u>Acolyte Crucifer</u>	<u>Counters</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Feb. 6 5 Epiphany	Diane Merrill	Rebecca Chauvin Pam Macauley	Judy Woods	Steve Lowe	Tim Earle Diane Rooney	Lee Martel	Catie Macauley Carol Knauss	Cricket Laidman	Isaiah 58:1-12 Psalm 112:1-10 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 Matthew 5:13-20
Feb. 13 6 Epiphany	Mary Gordon	Family Service	Mary Cassidy Bonnie Huizenga	Pam Macauley	Carol Knauss Diane Rooney	Margaret Lowe Lenore Morse	Fiona Robertson Aaron Robertson	Stephen Lowe Nate Guilmette	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 119:1-8 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37
Feb. 20 7 Epiphany		Sarah Hale Meghan Olsen	Laurie Earle Tim Earle	Sarah Stroup	Tim Earle Diane Rooney	Mary Gordon Ann Haigis	Cassidy Jay Kalvin Jay	Mary Gordon Kim Hatgen-Carrig	Leviticus 19: 1-2, 9-18 Psalm 119:33-40 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23 Matthew 5:38-48
27 8 Epiphany		Rachel Robertson Rebecca Chauvin	Madelaine Calise Karen White	Christopher White	Carol Knauss Diane Rooney	Lee Martel Jim Schuler	Catie Macauley Carol Knauss	Betty Bristol Carol Knauss	Isaiah 49:8-16a Psalm 131 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 Matthew 6:24-34



On the evening of **SHROVE TUESDAY** (March 8th) this year, there is a chance for you to share your talent with us.

If you have the talent to tell a story, tell a joke or two, sing a song, recite poetry or play a musical instrument then consider sharing that talent with your fellow Saint Paul's community.

Practice and prepare! This is a tradition that we have enjoyed for several years. It fits with our stewardship efforts too! Sharing time and talent are keys to good stewardship and it strengthens our parish community. More details will be available in the March Epistle. This is not a talent competition and all ages are welcome to participate.

PASTORAL CARE AND OUTREACH:

Pastoral Care and Outreach met after church on Sunday January 16 with a small group present. We reviewed pastoral care needs for those individuals who received holiday baskets and discussed how to make sure they receive ongoing visits from members of the parish. Individuals in the group will be doing some follow-up during the next month. We also discussed the need to remove any outdated food in the freezer and assess whether our supply is sufficient at this time.

Bo Price spoke of the Mothers Without Borders program regarding newborn kits. The Sunday School will be spearheading this project with collection of items over the next few months. A box will be placed in the church entry for materials being donated and a list of items needed will be posted as well.

We received news that the Migrant Worker Dinners have been suspended for the time being. This led to a discussion of other projects or organizations we might want to support. We decided to gather more information about the work of the Boys and

Girls Club in our area and see if this is a area of community service where we might offer support. We also discussed hosting a quarterly luncheon or dinner at the church in the future. We will do some checking on other meal programs already being offered before making any final choices.

Our next meeting will be Sunday March 13th.



MOTHERS WITHOUT BORDERS VERMONT: NEW BORN KITS COLLECTION

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/MWBVT>

Mothers Without Borders Vermont (MWBVT) is an organization dedicated to helping endangered and vulnerable children wherever they are in the world. In the past, St. Paul's has participated in collecting New Born Kits for MWBVT. These newborn kits are distributed by MWBVT to orphanages, birthing clinics, and needy families in Africa, Haiti, and wherever else these supplies are so desperately needed.

This year, the Sunday school would like to spearhead this collection and will be putting a container in the Narthex for collecting items starting in February. A flyer will also be posted in the Narthex with information on how to contribute. Information on where to find items will also be included. A list of items for each kit is also included in this article.

We will start collecting in February and end in April. The Sunday school will help assemble the items in zip lock bags on Sunday, May 1, and we will bring them to the altar on Mother's Day, Sunday May 8th. Left-over items can also be contributed to other groups assembling for MWBVT.

The New Born kits consist of:

- 1 receiving blanket
- 1 layette gown, size newborn or 0-3 mo
- 1 newborn hat
- 1 pair newborn socks
- 1 bar of soap
- 6 cloth diapers
- 4 diaper pins
- 3 plastic pants, newborn size
- 1 bar ivory soap

In the past, items have been donated individually. However, if you would like to contribute a complete Newborn Kit, please pack the items in a 2-gallon zip lock bag. New or gently used items are gladly accepted! Please be sure that used items are free of stains and holes.

Thank you for any contributions that you can make.

Rebecca Chauvin (Sunday School)
Bo Price (Outreach Committee)

- **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**
- 3 Martha Redpath
- 4 Cricket Laidman
- 4 Noah Macauley
- 11 Bernadette Laberge
- 12 Bonnie Huizenga
- 20 Lucy Macauley
- 24 Bo Price
- 24 George Chauvin
- 25 Howard VanDine
- 25 Lisa Stockwell
- 26 Colin Jennings
- 27 Betty Aseltine
- 27 Theresa Davis

ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 23 2011
Election Results:

VESTRY 3 YEARS

Betty Bristol
George Chauvin
Bo Price

VESTRY 1 YEAR

Mary Gordon

3 DELEGATES TO CONVENTION

George Chauvin (from vestry)
Laurie Earle
Sarah Cowan

3 ALTERNATES TO CONVENTION

Pam Macauley (from vestry)
Bob Laidman
Sarah Stroup

VERGENNES COMMUNITY FOOD SHELF

Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 2-4

Saturday 8-10

If you know of anyone who could use a little help please tell them about the food shelf! We could use peanut butter sandwich "go withs" such as jams, jellies, honey, and marshmallow fluff.