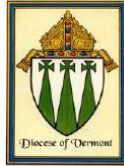


ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE



JANUARY 2011 (revision 1)

Vergennes, Vermont
Tuesday, December 21, 2010
Feast of St. Thomas

Dear Members and Friends of St. Paul's Church,

In today's noontime celebration of Eucharist, one of the assigned readings was from the Epistle to the Hebrews. The passage concluded, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Part of what Christian life entails is handing over one's trust to God, an unseen God, placing hope in the creative force of the divine. Though we do not literally see the child in the manger, now, just days before Christmas, our hope is focused there. "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." Thank God for the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

The Incarnation occupies a very prominent place in Anglican thought. That God chose to be involved so intimately with the creation is the highest compliment to humanity. Our best response is to offer thanksgiving in return and then to spread widely the love that we experience. In Christian belief this finally culminates with peace in the world and restored dignity for all of humankind. It is God manifest in Christ that propels us to offer this good news of redemption and thereby bring hope to a world sorely in need of it.

One of the questions in the Catechism [Prayer Book, p. 861] asks, "What is the Christian hope?" and is answered, "The Christian hope is to live with confidence in newness and fullness of life, and to await the coming of Christ in glory, and the completion of God's purpose for the world." Within that reply there is a fine direction for the coming new year: Live with confidence in newness and fullness of life.

As we live into this new life, please allow me to remind (or in some instances *notify*) you: Following the 10 a.m. service on **Sunday, January 23**, the **Annual Meeting** of the Parish will be held to receive reports and the budget, and to elect Vestry members and convention delegates. Please do attend if possible.

Also I'd like to remind you that St. Paul's Church continues to offer noontime celebrations of Eucharist on Holy Days. In the coming month that means

Thursday, January 6, Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Tuesday, January 18, Confession of St. Peter the Apostle
Tuesday, January 25, Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle

Furthermore, the Cathedral has scheduled another Taizé Evensong at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 16.

A Happy New Year in the joy of the Incarnation,

Alan +

CONVENTION

St. Paul's parish was represented at the annual convention of the Diocese of Vermont on November 6 and 7 by elected delegates Sarah Cowan, Margaret Lowe and Nan Guilmette, and by our rector, Alan Kittelson and Deacon in Training, Diane Rooney. Here are some highlights:

On Friday morning, Nov. 6, I was a participant in a walking tour of the Diocesan facilities at Rock Point. It is a very beautiful natural site. In addition to the trails through woods with spectacular views of Lake Champlain, the facilities available at the conference center and elsewhere make it a very attractive site for events. It would be a wonderful spot for a parish family weekend retreat.

Friday afternoon and evening priest Emily Scott described for us the development of St. Lydia's in New York City, a worship community built around a weekly dinner worship service. She talked about a church whose development responds to the culture (one might say to the restraints inherent in the lifestyle) of its members. I was impressed.

Changes in the economy in the last year and a half have affected the diocese so that there have been significant cost cutting changes in the diocesan staff. Plans have been made to have an annual appeal to raise funds for the diocese. The bishop is also calling a special session of the convention in June to consider a capital campaign for the diocese.

Margaret Lowe

PASTORAL CARE AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Care and Outreach Committee met on Sunday December 12th to assemble holiday bags for members of our community who are either homebound or have difficulty coming to church each week. There was also a large assortment of items for the Vergennes Care Home, including gifts to two of their residents who do not have family. Holiday bags included home baked goods, fleece blankets, ornaments, soaps, books, homemade jams, candies, cups filled with a hot chocolate mix and some fresh oranges. Bags are being delivered to some families by the choir who will be caroling Sunday the 19th. Diane will also deliver the Vergennes Care Home items after church that day. Other bags went with several parishioners on Sunday the 12th. Children in the Sunday School decorated the bags being sent and also made cards to include with all the goodies.

Many hands helped to make this offering possible and we thank everyone who contributed their time and talents.

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

We are happy to report that we are experiencing positive growth in our pledge levels over previous years. We still don't have all pledges in and we welcome you to consider doing so if you have not already. It's never too late!

Although we have had a few departures and deaths since last year (three) we have also seen some new folks step up and pledge (two, so far). The most exciting news is the growth in the dollar amount people are pledging to St Paul's. To date our average pledge is \$1,665. This is a significant increase over 2009, up 31 percent! We would like to think that our personal visits helped those who have pledged in the past understand the importance of their monetary contribution to St. Paul's.

We are still hoping to hear from you. There are a few folks who pledged last year that we've not heard from (six) and it is our goal to spread the burden so that we rely less on each individual unit by increasing the number of pledging units as well as dollars. "It takes a village!" Or in our case, "It takes a Parish!" We hope that you will consider making a commitment. What you pledge is between you and God. Stewardship is, after all, about our joyful thanksgivings to God. We hope that through prayer and reflection, you will help us achieve an ambitious goal, but a worthy one of narrowing our budget shortfall gap by 25%. Please consider this. If you have lost your pledge card (it was tucked in the "Seeds of Giving" pamphlet you should have received) we would be happy to get a new one to you.

Thank you!

VERGENNES COMMUNITY FOOD SHELF

Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 2-4

Saturday 8-10

Thank you so much for your generous contributions. Some of the stories we hear are heart breaking...like the woman who didn't dare use her stove because she was afraid she would run out of gas for heating, so only took microwaveable things. The Food shelf helps her to stretch her meager income.

PLEASE remember that your annual reports are due. We need them by January 8th in order to be able to put them together, and run them off in time for perusal before the actual meeting.



The rector, junior and senior wardens, committee chairs (stewardship, finance, altar guild, flower guild, choir, Memorial Day, pastoral care–outreach) should all send reports to pbarrows@gmavt.net and jerm@gmavt.net.

CAROLING

CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR THOSE WE HOLD DEAR

On December 19th after church an enthusiastic group of revelers raised their voices and brought smiles to the faces of our older members who are now homebound. Everyone enjoyed renewing old friendships and also two of our newer members were able to put faces to names of those they have heard so much about.

We visited Sybil and Marion who loved hearing the golden oldies. Did you know Sybil can recite every verse of Once in Royal David's City, a carol that brings her great comfort? Marion was overwhelmed with hugs and prayers led by Fr. Alan. They were delighted to meet Chris Hale after seeing the photo of him in the Epistle holding the In-gathering cake. Their cute remarks will remain private!

In the good hands of Bob Laidman's carolmobile we headed to Bristol where we shared much laughter with Bill Hanson and Mary Cassidy. Bill was in great spirits and sang along with gusto and never looked at his watch once! In fact he would have loved us to be there longer but we were expected at the Vrooman's. Helen and Barry gave us a very warm welcome and the music really got Barry into the Christmas spirit as we gathered in their cozy living room.

In addition to the music, everyone received a basket of gifts lovingly prepared by the Pastoral Care committee which were very much appreciated. We shared much joy, fellowship and of course some good stories with our older friends and look forward to doing it again next year. Many thanks go to the following carolers: Fr. Alan, Bob & Cricket Laidman, Margaret Lowe, Bo Price, Chris Hale and Madelaine Calise.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Martha Clark
- 6 Nate Merrill
- 9 Mary Biegen
- 12 Butch Huizenga
- 16 Steve Lowe
- 17 Charley Glassberg
- 23 Alisdair Chauvin
- 21 Christopher White
- 26 Bill Hanson
- 28 Matthew Shahan

Annual Meeting January 23rd. Snow date January 30.

JANUARY 2011 AT ST. PAUL'S, VERGENNES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 2 Christmas 8am Eucharist 10am Sunday School 10am Eucharist 7pm AA	3	4 9:30 Rector at meeting- All Saints So. Burlington 7 pm choir	5	6 <i>The Epiphany</i> Noon Holy Eucharist Rite 1	7 8pm AA	8 Annual reports due
9 1 Epiphany 8am Eucharist 10am Family Service 7pm AA	10	11 7 pm choir	12	13	14 8pm AA	15 10-2am Diocesan Council- Trinity, Rutland
16 2 Epiphany 8am Eucharist 10am Sunday School 10am Eucharist 7:30 Taize evensong- Cathedral 7pm AA	17	18 <i>Confession of St. Peter</i> Noon Eucharist Rite 1 7 pm choir 7pm Vestry	19	20	21 8pm AA	22 EPISTLE DEADLINE Submissions to: pbarrows@gmavt.net jerm@gmavt.net
23 3 Epiphany 8am Eucharist 10am Sunday School 10am Eucharist 11:30 ANNUAL MEETING 7pm AA	24	25 <i>Conversion of St. Paul</i> Noon Eucharist Rite 1 7pm choir	26 10:30 Morning Prayer Service Vergennes Community Care Home	27	28 8pm AA	29 9:30 am Prayer and Healing group (new date)
30 4 Epiphany 8am Eucharist 10am Sunday School 10am Eucharist 11:30 Snow Date Annual Meeting 7pm AA	31					

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

JANUARY 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</u>	<u>Counters</u>	<u>Readings</u>
2 2 Christmas	Lenore Morse	Rebecca Chauvin Lenore Morse	Sarah Stroup	Sarah Stroup	Tim Earle Diane Rooney	Margaret Lowe Steve Lowe		Cricket Laidman	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 84 Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a Matthew 2:1-12
9 1 Epiphany	Kim Hatgen Carrig	Family Service	Lenore Morse Kim Hatgen	Bob Laidman	Carol Knauss Diane Rooney	Lee Martel		Stephen Lowe Nate Guilmette	Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17
16 2 Epiphany	Lucille LeBeau	Sarah Stroup Rachel Robertson	Rebecca Chauvin Bo Price	Steve Lowe	Tim Earle Diane Rooney	Steve Lowe Mary Gordon		Mary Gordon Kim Hatgen-Carrig	Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-12 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1: 29-42
23 3 Epiphany	Anne Sevee	Meghan Olsen Bo Price	Ann Haigis Chris Hale	Pam Macauley	Tim Earle Diane Rooney	Lee Martel Jim Schuler		Betty Bristol Carol Knauss	Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:5-13 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23
30 4 Epiphany	Rebecca Chauvin	Margaret Lowe Sarah Hale	Margaret Lowe	Tim Earle	Carol Knauss Diane Rooney	Ann Haigis Mary Gordon		Betty Bristol Carol Knauss	Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12