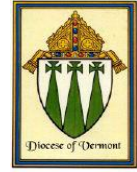


St. Paul's Epistle



JANUARY 2012

Vergennes, Vermont
December 23, 2011

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

During my years of living in Norway I came to know this particular day as "*Little Christmas Eve.*" In that country most families would wait until December 23 to erect their Christmas tree and hang the decorations on it. This is rather unlike the way American customs have evolved, and you sometimes may have heard me being sentimental about a stricter observance of Advent. However, I'll admit it has been a pleasure to look out the front windows of the rectory over the past weeks and see all the trees on the Town Common laden with sparkling lights. [Not sure what the diocesan Earth Stewards Committee would say!] When there's a breeze the branches move, and then the lights dance. Perhaps the star that shone over Bethlehem all those years ago also danced. *We* should, considering the Good News that is our heritage. That gift is what we'll be singing praises about as we gather in worship tomorrow afternoon and evening. Both the choir and the altar guild have been busily preparing in anticipation of these joyful liturgies that celebrate the Incarnation of Christ. "The whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now," and I thank you for the many ways in which you continue to express our mission to the world.

Here's how St. Paul's Church will be observing the major Holy Days of the coming month:

Sunday, Jan. 1, The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ
8 am & 10 am – Holy Eucharist (regularly scheduled services)

Friday, Jan. 6, The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ
12 Noon – Holy Eucharist, Rite I
(Incidentally, this day also marks the 97th birthday of our oldest parishioner, Martha Clark.)

Wednesday, Jan. 18, The Confession of Saint Peter the Apostle
12 Noon – Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Wednesday Jan. 25, The Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle
10:30 am – Morning Prayer at Vergennes Residential Care Home

Finally, (repeating last month) for your calendar: **Annual Meeting of the Parish** will be held **Sunday, January 22**. We'll receive reports of the year 2011 and the 2012 budget; elect 3 new Vestry members, 3 convention delegates, and 3 alternates. Meeting will take place after the 10 o'clock service. The Vestry also established a "snow date." If necessary the Annual Meeting will be postponed until January 29.

Congratulations to the Hale family. A new son joined Chris, Sarah, and Benjamin on Dec. 17. All best wishes!

Blessings in the New Year,

Alan



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Martha Clark
- 6 Nate Merrill
- 12 Butch Huizenga
- 14 Del Guilmette
- 16 Steve Lowe
- 17 Charley Glassberg
- 23 Alisdair Chauvin
- 21 Christopher White
- 26 Bill Hanson



LIFT EVERY VOICE AND

SING HYMNALS

We're in need of a few more copies of Lift Every Voice and Sing. If anyone is interested in donating a copy, please let Alan or one of the Vestry know. Currently the price for one hymnal is \$18.00.

HOLIDAY BASKETS

Sunday December 11 found many hands at work preparing the Holiday Baskets to be distributed to some of our homebound parishioners and the Vergennes Care Home. Behind the scenes, goodies were baked by many members of our community, committee members shopped for several of the items included in the baskets and the Sunday School constructed ornaments with special tags to send our holiday greetings. Cards, signed by everyone in attendance that Sunday, were also included. Some of the baskets were sent to homes that day and several were delivered by the choir on Sunday December 18th as part of their caroling visits. Diane stopped by the Vergennes Care Home to deliver items to both residents and staff. She also obtained the names of three residents who needed gifts for Christmas morning. This annual project has become a wonderful way for our community to stay in touch with those who find it challenging to come to church and also for all ages in our congregation to join in creating a special gift.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS, gift baskets and lots of cheer were delivered on Sunday the 18th to our dear parishioners who are no longer able to worship with us in church. Judy Woods as both chauffeur and director led us in many of the old favorites and Fr. Alan administered healing prayers to all our elderly

friends. We covered some miles and visited: Sybil Osborn & Marion Davis, Bootsie Morris, Bill Hansen and Barry & Helen Vrooman.

Many thanks to the following who sang so heartily: Fr. Alan, Bonnie Huizenga, Jona Tierney, Bob & Cricket Laidman, Margaret Lowe, Judy Woods and Madelaine Calise.



Bonnie Huizenga, Jona Tierney



L to R: Greg Hamilton, MaryBeth Hamilton, Bob Laidman Cricket Laidman

St. P's members of the Otter Creek Choral Society. This was taken after their Christmas Concert. MaryBeth had many solos just beautiful.

FOOD SHELF: WE COULD USE SOAP AND SHAMPOO! THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

THE PICTURES ARE LOVELY IN COLOR. SEE ST. PAUL'S WEBSITE AT:
www.saintpaulsvergennes.org

JANUARY 2012 AT ST. PAUL'S, VERGENNES

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ 8am Eucharist 10am Sunday school 10am Eucharist 7pm AA	2	3	4	5	6 <i>Feast of the Epiphany</i> 12 noon Holy Eucharist Rite I 8pm AA	7 ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR ANNUAL REPORTS jerm@gmavt.net
8 Epiphany, Baptism of Our Lord 8am Eucharist 10am Family Eucharist 4pm ECCRT meeting 7pm AA	9	10 7pm Choir	11	12	13 8pm AA	14 9:30am Prayer and Healing Group
15 2 Epiphany 8am Eucharist 10am Sunday school 10am Eucharist 7pm AA	16	17 7pm Vestry 7pm Choir	18 <i>Confession of St. Peter the Apostle</i> 12 noon Holy Eucharist Rite I	19	20 8pm AA	21 EPISTLE DEADLINE jerm@gmavt.net
22 3 Epiphany 8am Eucharist 10am Sunday school 10am Eucharist 11:30 Annual Meeting 7pm AA	23	24 7pm Choir	25 <i>Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle</i> 10:30 Morning Prayer Vergennes Community Care Home	26	27 8pm AA	28
29 4 Epiphany 8am Eucharist 10am Sunday school 10am Eucharist 11:30 Outreach and Pastoral Care Snow date for annual meeting 7pm AA	30	31 7pmChoir				

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>Counters</u>	<u>Chalice</u>	<u>Welcome Comm.</u>	<u>Acolyte Crucifer</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Readings</u>
January 1	Carol Knauss	Rebecca Chauvin Lenore Morse	Nan Guilmette Sarah Stroup	Cricket Laidman Steve Lowe	Tim Earle Diane Rooney	Lee Martel	Kassidy Jay Carol Knauss	Nate Merrill	Numbers 6:22-27 Psalm 8 Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 2:15-21
January 8	Lenore Morse	Family Service	Lenore Morse Kim Hatgen	Carol Knauss Nate Guilmette	Carol Knauss Diane Rooney	Randy Orvis Lee Martel	Kassidy Jay Carol Knauss	Christopher White	Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19:1-17 Mark 1: 4-11
January 15	Lenore Morse	Margaret Lowe Sarah Stroup	Rebecca Chauvin Bo Price	Mary Gordon Kim Hatgen- Carrig	Tim Earle Diane Rooney	Steve Lowe Lenore Morse	Catie Macauley	Steve Lowe	1 Samuel 3:1-20 Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-61
January 22	Kim Hatgen- Carrig	Nan Guilmette Bo Price	Ann Haigis Chris Hale	Betty Bristol Carol Knauss	Tim Earle Diane Rooney	Mary Gordon Ann Haigis	Catie Macauley Carol Knauss	Bob Laidman	Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:6-14 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20
January 29	Lucille LeBeau	Pam Macauley Rebecca Chauvin	Margaret Lowe	Betty Bristol Carol Knauss	Carol Knauss Diane Rooney	Margaret Lowe Lenore Morse	Kassidy Jay Carol Knauss	Nan Guilmette	Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28

