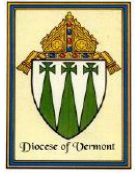


# St. Paul's Epistle



**MARCH 2021**

**Beloved Is Where We Begin**

If you would enter  
into the wilderness,  
do not begin  
without a blessing.

Do not leave  
without hearing  
who you are:  
Beloved,  
named by the One  
who has traveled this path  
before you.

Do not go  
without letting it echo  
in your ears,  
and if you find  
it is hard  
to let it into your heart,  
do not despair.  
That is what  
this journey is for.

I cannot promise  
this blessing will free you  
from danger,  
from fear,  
from hunger  
or thirst,  
from the scorching  
of sun  
or the fall  
of the night.

But I can tell you  
that on this path  
there will be help.

I can tell you  
that on this way  
there will be rest.

I can tell you  
that you will know  
the strange graces  
that come to our aid  
only on a road  
such as this,  
that fly to meet us  
bearing comfort  
and strength,  
that come alongside us  
for no other cause  
than to lean themselves  
toward our ear  
and with their  
curious insistence  
whisper our name:

*Beloved.*

*Beloved.*

*Beloved.*

—Jan Richardson  
from *Circle of Grace*

# Are You Called?

## Ministry Discernment Committee (MDC)

The Vestry of St. Paul's invites you to consider a possible call to serve as a member of the *Ministry Discernment Committee (MDC)*. The MDC, appointed by the Vestry, is responsible for the process of discerning the priest who will bring the gifts and skills best suited to serve in partnership with the Congregation.

The three-fold purpose of the MDC:

- To pray, study and reflect on the ministries of the congregation, current and future;
- To discern which model of leadership best enacts and supports your next phase of ministry;
- To identify the clergy candidate who has the gifts and skills to partner with the congregation in these ministries.

This process will involve *prayerful discernment* in accordance with diocesan policies and companionship of the Warden's, Interim Pastor and Canon to the Ordinary for Transition Ministry, The Rev. Auburn Watersong. Ample training and support will be available. God is with us. We have (and will have) everything we need for this journey.

Additionally, the process includes a commitment to:

- Confidentiality
- Clear communication
- Review of applications
- Lots of meeting time (initially on Zoom) to discuss, assess and make decisions
- Hospitality
- Information gathering
- Interviews and recommendation of candidates
- Open mindedness
- Prep materials

Expect this process to be a bit different from twelve years ago for a number of reasons:

- You will call a ¼ or ½ time rector or priest in partnership.
- The vestry has spent a year of discernment including a congregational survey and conversations. A lot has been learned already!
- The process is more streamlined.
- There are fewer candidates due to retirement and fewer going into ordained ministry.

What has not changed: You remain a dynamic, creative, faithful and compassionate community.

Lastly, if one serves on the MDC, it is recommended that their other ministry responsibilities be paused or substantially decreased.

**If you are interested please write a paragraph describing:**

1) why would you like to serve, 2) what gifts and skills you bring to the process, 3) can you commit to the time involved (9-12 months, meeting 2x/month, in addition to ongoing tasks and communications). Send questions or paragraph of intent to Rebecca Chauvin [rebeccahchauvin@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccahchauvin@gmail.com) or call 802-578-7312.

## **Consider being part of the Stewardship Ministry at St. Paul's!**

The Stewardship Committee is looking for new members. Bo Price is resigning her co-chair position this year. In addition, Bob Laidman, also co-chair, and Madelaine Calise will be staying on the committee for one more year. It would be ideal to have at least one new member, possibly two or three, who could help transition the team to new leadership while current committee members are there to mentor and train. "Job descriptions" and, of course, conversation will be made available to those who are interested. We are looking to fill both administrative and financial roles. Please contact anyone on the Stewardship Committee if you want to explore or feel called to this join this rewarding ministry.

### **From The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS):**

Teaching about, preaching on, and engaging conversation about money and meaning in church is a difficult concept. We bring so much of ourselves into conversations about money that it can quickly overwhelm us, or feel more complicated than it might be. Stewardship is not just the pledge campaign – it is how we approach our relationship with each other and all of God's gifts to us all year round. Whatever the resources we have been given is what we must work with to accomplish the mission of the church – these include our time, our talent, and our treasure, and they work together to grow the Reign of God.

### **What is Stewardship?**

Stewardship is Everything I do after I say, "I believe." God calls us to share in God's mission of caring for the world, using all the gifts God has given us. We are stewards, caretakers of God's gifts. Everything we have was a gift from God, and God asks us to use it all for God's purposes. Generosity flows naturally out of our gratitude for the gift of love, family, and life itself. In the church, we are stewards of the good news of God's love for us in Jesus Christ. We are called to share that good news with new generations. But we live in a world where sharing that news is becoming ever more challenging. In order to share the good news, we need financial and other resources. Our worries about stewardship tend to focus on money. But stewardship is all about mission. Convince people that the church is doing God's mission and that it will truly transform our lives and our communities. Each of us is an integral part of that mission—heart, mind and body—and the money will follow.

### **Stewardship isn't just:**

- Fundraising
- Paying the light bills or maintaining a building
- Paying a decent staff
- Meeting the budget
- Keeping the church alive
- Paying our fair share of the dues
- Passing on a legacy to our children

**Stewardship is:**

- Sharing in God’s mission with a glad, generous and grateful heart
- Transforming lives in our community
- Prayerfully responding to God’s call
- A deeply spiritual matter
- Something that blesses the giver more than the receiver

Stewardship is discipleship; it is a complete reorientation of our lives toward God, who calls us through Jesus Christ. Stewardship is Everything I do after I say, “I believe.”

Contact: Bo Price, Bob Laidman, Sarah Cowan, Chris Hale, Madelaine Calise

**Paycheck Protection Program Loan Forgiveness**

Hello, everyone.

Way back in April when everything shut down, we applied for a loan from the Federal Government to support our payroll. We applied for this loan program through the National Bank of Middlebury. A person named Grover Usilton was really helpful to support me during a very confusing process. If you know him, say "thanks." Sarah Cowan, of course, helped guide us along the way as well. She was encouraging and hopeful. Given our expenses, I submitted an application to "forgive" these loans a couple of weeks ago, so that the loans would ostensibly become grants to support our Church during this time. On Wednesday, February 17th, we received word that in fact these loans were "forgiven." This is great news and really helps support our mission as we have seen a downturn in giving especially in what you would call "plate" giving as well as our holiday gifts (Easter & Christmas). So, good news - in total St. Paul's Church received "forgiveness" for a loan of \$12,400. I am likely going to make an application for a "second draw" in the coming weeks that will further support the parish especially to ensure that we pay our people.

Stay warm everyone. -John

**A quick note about Palm Sunday-**

Palms will be available for curbside pick-up at Hollyhocks 3/23-3/27 during business hours, Tuesday-Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-12. Please call ahead and we'll have them ready for you, 802-877-6663.

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

15th	John Beauregard	26th	Alan Kittelson
22nd	Patrick Knauss	26th	Zander Earle
24th	Bert Smith	29th	Jeanne Wisner
25th	Marcie Means	29th	Kristi Jennings
25th	Margaret Raymond	31st	Josephine Chauvin
25th	Riley Coffey		

**Ministers:** All the faithful

**Vestry:** Rebecca Chauvin (Sr. Warden)

802-578-7312 [rebeccahchauvin@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccahchauvin@gmail.com)

Chris Hale (Jr. Warden)

802-877-1059 [halemail22nm@gmail.com](mailto:halemail22nm@gmail.com)

Nan Guilmette 802- 453-8515

Kim Hatgen 802- 877-6947

David Merrill 802-349-9518

Bo Price 802-877-2031

Jeff Mangini 802-453-2144

**Treasurer:** John Stroup: 802-870-1055

[stroupjt0@gmail.com](mailto:stroupjt0@gmail.com)

**Clerk:** Lenore Morse

802-870-7020 [lmorse@anwsd.org](mailto:lmorse@anwsd.org)

**Bishop:** Rt. Rev. Dr. Shannon MacVean-Brown

**Interim Pastor:** Rev. Sherry Osborn

802-591-1265 [revsherryo@gmail.com](mailto:revsherryo@gmail.com)

**Deacon:** Rev. Lucy Pellegrini

[lcbpellegrini48@gmail.com](mailto:lcbpellegrini48@gmail.com)

**WEBSITE:** <https://www.saintpaulsvergennes.org>