



# *St. Paul's Epistle*



**OCTOBER 2019**

## Vergennes' Park Street projects are advancing

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**By:**

Andy Kirkaldy

VERGENNES — St. Paul's Episcopal Church has created a separate nonprofit organization to focus on fundraising to support landscaping the lawn on the church's west side. The parish envisions that lawn as a welcoming public park space that will serve as an extension of the adjacent city green and include a stone sitting circle.

The church introduced its nonprofit, called the "Park Street Community Project," at a Vergennes Day booth in late August and raised \$650 in pledges that day toward what project committee member Sarah Stroup said is a projected \$15,000 cost.

The founding of the church's nonprofit follows a successful partnership between St. Paul's and the city of Vergennes on a related infrastructure project.

St. Paul's and the Vergennes City Council this past winter agreed to apply jointly for a grant that helped fund this summer's rebuild and widening of the sidewalk along Park Street, plus an upgrade of the church-owned stone retaining wall that runs along the sidewalk and church property.

That project cost came in at \$35,620, far under its original roughly \$93,000 estimate.

The church and city had originally agreed to pay about \$23,000 each, or 25 percent of the projected cost. But because the total 50 percent local match of what was a Designated Downtown grant came in at a little less than \$18,000, the Vergennes City Council last week agreed to waive the church's share of the cost and allow it to apply it toward the rest of its related projects.

The church is also restoring the stained-glass windows that overlook the lawn it intends to turn into a public park, a project estimated at \$50,725. It also plans to spend the \$15,000 to improve the landscaping of the lawn to provide seating and what Stroup called a “gathering space” for visitors to the green and the lawn area.

Stroup said the church appreciates the help it has received from City Manager Matt Chabot and the council.

“We are grateful for the city’s support and for the new city manager, who was able to secure a talented and affordable contractor,” Stroup said in an email, adding, “We appreciate the support from the city council last week, and look forward to a continued productive partnership.”

Stroup said fundraising is continuing “in and out of the congregation” toward the park project. The church has enlisted United Way of Addison County as its fiscal agent, and she said donations to this project can be made at [unitedwayaddisoncounty.org](http://unitedwayaddisoncounty.org) by specifying donations should go to the Park Street Community Project.

By next spring, she said, the church plans to begin the project.

“The nice thing about the landscaping is that it can be continuous — we want to move a tree, put in a walkway from the sidewalk, and build the stone circle next spring/summer,” Stroup said. “But we have other ambitions and ideas (community gardens, a rain garden by Main Street to harvest water in line with city water reclamation plans, etc.)”

Funding for the stained-glass windows is largely, but not completely, in place. The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont awarded the small congregation \$22,500 a year ago. St. Paul’s earned a \$16,988 Vermont Historical Preservation Grant that must be matched in December. The Cerf Foundation just awarded St. Paul’s \$6,000, and the church has raised \$5,100 internally.

Restoration began in June, and St. Paul’s parishioners believe restored windows overlooking the lawn will enhance the improvements.

“With new storm windows scheduled to be installed at the end of 2019, we look forward to having these beautiful windows on display above our new sidewalk and lawn,” Stroup said.

## **Sunday School Kicks Off!**

This year, our Sunday School curriculum will be centered around the Baptismal Covenant. We are taking each part of the covenant and delving more deeply the meaning of each. During our weekly lessons, the children will also be designing a service-learning project that aligns with the part of the covenant we are studying. Stay tuned for what these projects will be!

## Thank you, Judy Langeway for your service!

Judy Langeway has served as a chalice bearer for more than a decade. She has faithfully served many of us as a lay Eucharistic minister. Her last service was August 25th with the Rev. Dr. Susan McGarry. Thank you, Judy!

## Stewardship Season

The Stewardship season is upon us! Because everyone is so busy this year with contributions large and small to the life of St. Paul's, we thought we would take a break from our usual Stewardship reflection series. We will be mailing the Stewardship pledge letter in early November and hope to hear back from everyone by the end of November. The reason we specify the end of November is so that there is ample time to begin and complete the budget for St. Paul's for 2020. As you know, all of us will review the 2020 budget at the Annual Meeting in January, but there is a lot that goes into the budget process beforehand. Having the months of December and January to fine-tune the budget is very helpful, and the Vestry appreciates the timely return of pledge cards to make this process go smoothly.

We realize that there are many who make substantial gifts of their time and talents at St. Paul's, so it can be difficult to remind everyone that St. Paul's needs your financial support. Yes, we may consider a part-time Rector in the future to alleviate some costs, but first a discernment committee will be tasked with figuring out how best to serve our congregation. In the meantime, we need your support in whatever capacity you can give. During this Stewardship season, we ask that you reflect on how much our congregation, our worship, and our buildings mean to you, and if you are able, please consider an increase in your pledge for 2020. We are hoping for 100% participation by our members. Thank you for returning your pledge cards **by the end of November** to St. Paul's Church, P.O. Box 196, Vergennes, VT 05491.

Faithfully,

The Stewardship Committee

*Bo Price, Bob Laidman, Sarah Cowan, Chris Hale, Madelaine Calise*

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1<sup>st</sup> Tim Earle

2<sup>nd</sup> Connor Merrill

3<sup>rd</sup> Benjamin Hale

3<sup>rd</sup> Thatcher Leggett

4<sup>th</sup> Keegan Tierney

5<sup>th</sup> Judy Woods

6<sup>th</sup> Bruce Cassidy

7<sup>th</sup> Josh Jennings

8<sup>th</sup> Sarah White

8<sup>th</sup> Heather Byrnes

10<sup>th</sup> Jack Devine

13<sup>th</sup> Charlotte Macauley

18<sup>th</sup> Connelly Sara Leggett

19<sup>th</sup> Andrew Woods

20<sup>th</sup> Kelsey Tierney

21<sup>st</sup> Rumsey Bristow

23<sup>rd</sup> Seth Cowan

25<sup>th</sup> Karen White

26<sup>th</sup> Carrie Wells

27<sup>th</sup> Kaitlin Curtis

29<sup>th</sup> Shirley McClay



**Rector:** Supply, TBD

**Sr. Warden:** Sarah Cowan 373-0513

**Jr. Warden:** Chris Hale 877-1059

**Clerk of the Vestry:** Steve Lowe 877-3783

**Treasurer:** John Stroup 870-7055

**YOUR VESTRY**

**Class of 2020**

Sarah Cowan 373-0513

Chris Hale 877-1059

Jeff Mangini 453-2144

**Class of 2021**

Rebecca Chauvin 877-1370

Nan Guilmette 453-8515

Kim Hatgen 877-6947

**Class of 2022**

David Merrill 475-2160

Bo Price 877-2031

**Church Committee Chairs**

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