

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Epistle

February, 2016

Love God. Love others. Help others love God.

We welcome you to join us on our journey as we strive to share the love of Jesus through worship, Christian education, fellowship and service to each other and the community beyond our walls.

There are over 400 references to building in the Bible. God is a builder, Isaiah tells us. We are builders, too, but building by ourselves is foolish: "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain" (Psalm 127:1). In the New Testament, the church is called "the household of God." And here Jesus tells us about a man who built his house on a solid rock foundation. Another man built his house on sand. When the rain came down and the rivers rose, the house collapsed. A firm foundation, built on prayer and service and worship, can help us weather the storms that will come to all of us. This personal foundation of faith is what we focus upon during the Season of Lent.

We can't help but think of the words of St. Paul when he reminds us that we need God's Grace right now. He reminds us that Grace is always present in every aspect of our life-whether good or bad, happy or sad, in prosperity or in adversity. We rely on that Grace even in our darkest moments. We are very blessed since we have experienced that Grace in our lives. Grace is that which allows our foundation of faith to be solid. But, the question still remains of how we better our family, our church, our community, our world, our environment and ourselves. How do we build the foundation of our faith not just now but so that it lasts. Is our faith built on sand or a rock foundation?

"Unless the
Lord builds
the house,
those who
build it labor in
vain"

-Psalm 127:1



What best can we do to make our lives better- we think of those who will follow us because those who have gone before us have left us a great legacy that we are called to continue. Our decisions not only impact us but those who will follow us. If you look to the Book of Common Prayer we see many opportunities that remind us that we are stewards of God's creation and our promise is to be the best stewards we can be. We do so by the Grace of God that wants to permeate every aspect of our lives. May we welcome that Light into the darkest moment of our lives, right now, for we need it now and every day of the year. May we realize that we are co-builders with God and that we need His Grace in order to build a house solid on faith. We are the beloved of God who has called us into His house.

-Rev. John Martinichio +



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Please note, Giving Statements for the year 2015 have been mailed out. If you did not receive one or feel yours is in error, please contact the church office at 748-8118. Thank you for your generosity.

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Thank you to Ruthie Koerts for leading the January Safe Church Training class. We were able to update many Safe Church Training Certificates.

Thank you to the choir for accompanying us for the Epiphany Service. Also, thank you to those who read for this service; Lynda Helmer, Karen Cahill, Stephanie Elder, Mary Cermak and Judy Shannon.



And, thank you to Sue Jones, Lynn and Bill Freeman and Mary and Will VanOsten for the delicious Movin' On Luncheon.

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### Women of the Church



The January meeting was a great success, with good food and fellowship as we learned about the soon to open Mercy House from Sister Joanna, Director of Mercy House, and David DeAngelo, Operations Director. They will be developing a wish list of items they can always use, but the rule of thumb is if we need it in our own homes, they will need it at Mercy

House. Information sheets may be found on the table at the back of the church. The tentative open house date is February 14<sup>th</sup>, so watch your local media for further details or go to the Mercy House web site.

Our February meeting will bring Joan Kupetsky from My Brothers' Keeper Quilt Group to our meeting to speak to us on the sleeping bag project for the homeless and we will actually make a sleeping bag during our meeting. This meeting will also deviate from our normal meeting schedule and will take place on **February 4<sup>th</sup>** in the Fellowship Hall at St. Paul's, commencing at 11:30 with a soup and salad lunch. We will then go right to Joan's presentation and make a sleeping bag. You need no sewing skills to do this task and based on conversations with people who have previously made these bags it is great fun. It is expected that we will be finished at about 3PM. Although Joan will bring all the supplies to make the sleeping bag, they are always happy to accept donations of thread, warm fabric such as fleece, old mattress pads, old blankets, and yarn for knitting hats and scarves. They also roll personal items for the recipients inside the sleeping bags and welcome the donation of warm socks, hats, gloves and scarves; and personal toiletries. Please feel free to bring a friend to the meeting who would be interested in this project or may even want to learn about it to pass on to another group. There is a sign up sheet the back of the church. There will be no meeting in March as we observe Lent.

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Sunday, February 7, is Boy Scout Sunday. If you are a Boy Scout or are a leader, wear your uniform to church as we will be recognizing you.

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Souper Bowl

Last day to vote, February 7

It's just around the corner, Super Bowl 50 or as we like to call it "Souper Bowl". It's St. Paul's 4th year challenging you to put your soup where your loyalty lies. Whether that be with the Denver Broncos, the Carolina Panthers or with St. Paul's, the CHOW pantry will be the ultimate winner. Place your soup can on the side of the table that represents your winning team. Don't have a soup can? Use a dollar! As an added incentive, an anonymous donor will match the number of soup cans 1 for 1 of the winning team's table! Join in this friendly competition and support CHOW!



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## Movin' On Luncheon and Movie

Monday, February 8, Noon

This month's Movin' On luncheon will include warm soup and bread and will follow with the movie, The War Room, a movie about seeking God for the strategies we use to face daily issues. All are welcome to join us for the movie which will start at 1PM.



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Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 9, 6PM

As is tradition at St. Paul's we will be holding a Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 9. This is a longstanding tradition in the church as a way to use up heavy, fatty foods before the Lenten Season begins. All are welcome to join us. Dinner will be served starting at 6:30PM.



SHROVE TUESDAY



ASH
WEDNESDAY

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## Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday, February 10

Ashes will be given at the following services on Wednesday, February 10:  
7:00AM in the Chapel, 9:30AM in the Church, 5:00PM in the Chapel and  
7:00PM in the Church. All are welcome.

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Stewardship Thought

On Sunday, February 14th at the Annual Meeting we will be electing the men and women who will serve as members of our church's vestry to lead our parish. We are thankful for those members of our parish who, as a witness to their stewardship, have consented to stand for election. We here at St. Paul's appreciate the hard, faithful work of our vestry. They practice their stewardship with their time- they are in church every Sunday, their abilities- they serve the parish in many ways, and their money- everyone pledges and supports God's work through St. Paul's Church.

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## Sunday School News

There is a current need for people willing and able to lead Sunday School classes on a rotating basis. There are currently 3 classes running, with ages ranging from 3-12. A very user friendly curriculum is provided. If you are interested in being added to the schedule, please see Jennifer Westermann. Please keep in mind you must have Safe Church Training before you may begin to lead these classes. Thank you in advance. Our children are our future!



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# ANNUAL MEETING



## Annual Meeting – Vestry Elections

Sunday, Feb. 14, 2016

One Service-9:00 A.M.

Mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 14th. We will have one combined service at 9:00AM with the meeting afterwards. Please bring a covered dish as we will first share a meal together then get to

the “business” of the church. The election of four vestry members and one warden will take place at this time. A vestry member’s term is three years; the term for a warden is two years. Not only is the vestry the governing body of the church but it is charged with helping to discern the vision toward which God is drawing St. Paul’s, making it a very important ministry in the life of the church.

Note: The qualifications for voting as set forth in the by-laws of the parish say “Each member, eighteen (18) years of age or older and a communicant in good standing for one calendar year shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members.” (Section 5:05) In order to run for an elected office the by-laws say “No person may serve as a Vestry member, unless that person is baptized, at least eighteen (18) years of age, a communicant in good standing of the Parish for one calendar year, and has been a regular financial contributor of record before the election or Vestry appointment takes place.” (Section 3:06)

The following people will be running for Vestry positions;

(1 year) Bill Freeman, (3 years) Ruthie Koerts, Dick Schwab and Bob Pettit.

### **Bill Freeman**

Lynn and I have been members of St Paul’s for over 45 years. We have 2 children and 4 grandchildren. I have previously been on many committees, served on vestry and been a warden. My current activities include ushering, greeting, Altar Guild, miscellaneous handyman projects and chief dishwasher at the many luncheons and dinners that Lynn cooks at St Paul’s. Outside of St Paul’s I volunteer 2 days or week with Broome County Habitat for Humanity. Lynn and I enjoy visiting our family and traveling with our camper.

### **Ruthie Koerts**

I feel honored and privileged to be considered for a member of St. Paul’s Vestry. I have been a Diocesan licensed Lay Pastoral Leader since 2004. I am also a Diocesan Safe Church Trainer. My other current diocesan involvement includes: Commission on Ministry, Ordination for Ministry, Youth Council, Training and Resource, and Co-Chair of the Diocesan Convention Exhibit Hall. In my previous church I was involved in many committees and held many positions, for instance: Vestry member as well as Jr. and Sr. Warden several times. I was on many committees and belonged to many ministry groups, such as: Budget/Finance, Building and Grounds, Stewardship, Outreach, Worship, Sunday School, Youth Group, Counter, Altar Guild, Choir, Usher, Greeter, Bible Study Leader, Acolyte Trainer, basically, I filled in wherever there was a need. My involvement, thus far, at St. Paul’s, include: finishing my 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Education for Ministry, Trinity Canteen, Reader, Chalice Bearer, Lay Assistant and Acolyte. St. Paul’s has become my home and I look forward to becoming a member of the vestry to make use of my time and talent.

## Robert C. Pettit

I and my family have been members of St. Paul's for more than 40 years, starting when we moved to Endicott from St. Andrews, Vestal in 1975. Suzanne and I both are cradle Episcopalians, having been brought up in the church through high school. Our two boys and many foster children all were brought up in St. Paul's. While disabled, I am now cancer free. I have served most recently as a vestry member, reader, usher, counter and Finance Committee chairman. I am responsible for generating St. Paul's fiscal budget every year and for reporting and appropriately commenting upon the monthly financial income and expenses to the vestry in a simplified version of the Treasurer's report. I also generate a report to the vestry on the Gould Fund's performance from the monthly Morgan Stanley report. I have been on the vestry many times through the years, starting in 1976. I have served as a member of the Outreach, Facilities, Finance and Search Committees. I was a Chapel Leader and nursery monitor back when those programs were necessary. I serve on the vestry because it is my responsibility to do what I can with the talents and experience I have, to further the work of St Paul's in the community. Serving is learning.

## Dick Schwab

In 2008 I retired from my position as Director of Forest Properties at SUNY/ESF Syracuse, after 34 years with the College, and still do some forestry consulting work. I was raised in the Catholic faith and attended the Episcopal Church on occasion with Sandy while we were dating, and was received into the Episcopal Church after we were married. During my time at our former church I served on Vestry, as Treasurer, headed the Finance Committee, served on the Property Committee, and ushered. When we decided to seek a new church home, we visited many wonderful churches in the Greater Binghamton Area, but found we kept being drawn back to St. Paul's where we found everything we were looking for – warmth, tremendous ministry, outreach, caring, fellowship and so much more – the people of St. Paul's live their faith. We knew we had found our home and remain happy to be part of the St. Paul's family. In my time here I have served as an added set of hands whenever there was a need – rummage sale clean up, Christmas decorating, helping at the Trinity Canteen, and church dinners. I am a regular attendee of the Rector's Forum, Lenten studies, and many of the wonderful extra services, activities and events that take place at St. Paul's. I feel St. Paul's has greatly strengthened my faith and I have grown during my time here. I would be pleased to offer more of my time and experience to St. Paul's as a member of Vestry.



Please note, the office will be closed on Monday, February 15 in observance of President's Day.

## Lenten Program

Wednesdays, February 17-March 23, 5PM

This year's Lenten Series is on the Legacy of St. Francis. Fr. Richard Rohr introduces us to an orthodoxy lost to much of contemporary Christianity, an orthodoxy rooted in Franciscan theology and practice, orthodoxy biblically grounded, personally challenging and ultimately liberating. Fr. Rohr is a globally recognized ecumenical teacher bearing witness to the universal awakening within Christian mysticism and the Perennial Tradition. He is a Franciscan priest and founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation. Fr. Rohr has authored many books and is the academic Dean of the Living School for Action and Contemplation. All are welcome to attend any part(s) of the program you are able. The program will run as follows:



- Lent service at 5 PM in the chapel
- Dinner at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall
- Program at 6:45 PM in the Fellowship Hall



## Lenten Program Dinners

Wednesdays, February 17-March 23, 6PM

We are in need of a few people to prepare the meal for our Wednesday Lenten Program. The meal should be light in nature such as soup and bread. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church for those willing to prepare this meal. Thank you so much.



## CHOW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The CHOW pantry is looking for volunteers willing to work either/or the CHOW pantry on Tuesdays or Thursdays or to do inventory on Sundays. If you are interested or need more information, please see Barbara Becker or Patricia Wallace.



## Prayers for Our Ministries

Each week a different ministry area of St. Paul's is featured in the bulletin to highlight, encourage involvement and give thanks for the people who make it happen. During the month of February we pray for the following ministries:

- 7- Gould Scholarship Committee
- 14- Ice Cream Social
- 21- Lay Assistants
- 28- Lectors



## Flower and Sanctuary Candle Memorials

Many weeks are still available for those wishing to light the Sanctuary Candle or honor a loved one with altar flowers this coming year. If you are interested in either the candle or flowers, please contact the office or obtain a form from the back of the church.



## Sanctuary Flower Memorials

February 21- The flowers on the altar are in memory of Keri Smith from her husband, Bill.



## Happy Birthday

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|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2/1 Nancy Ng                                     | 2/14 Georgia Wilber        |
| 2/2 Bonnie Pewterbaugh                           | 2/15 Jordan Jones          |
| 2/8 Chauncey DePew, Richard Schwab               | 2/18 Aiden Browning        |
| 2/10 Amelia & Madilyn Swavola                    | 2/20 Ingrid Elliott        |
| 2/11 Becky Cizike                                | 2/26 Don Williams          |
| 2/12 Sylvia Fulk, Mary Cermak & Tori Jo Kakusian | 2/27 Bill Freeman          |
| 2/13 Bud Rozina                                  | 2/28 Jessica Dieffenbacher |



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|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2/7 Jean & Tony Farrand  | 2/14 Will & Mary VanOsten |
| 2/10 Verona & Ken Kidder | 2/21 Erin & Chris McLane  |



## Liturgical Ministers Schedule

|                         |                     |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Feb 7                   | 8AM                 | 10PM                |
| Lay Minister            | Jennifer Westermann | Karen Cahill        |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading |                     | Kelly Parker-Seeley |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading | Mary Cermak         | Zach Manchester     |
| Chalice                 | Jack Westermann     | Eunice Barton       |
| Readings                |                     |                     |

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|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Feb 14                  | 8AM              | 10AM           |
| Lay Minister            | Jack Westermann  | Georgia Wilber |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading |                  | Judy Shannon   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading | Garvin Alexander | Ray Besemer    |
| Chalice                 | Chip Kinne       | Jim Buffum     |
| Readings                |                  |                |

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|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Feb 21                  | 8AM                | 10AM         |
| Lay Minister            | Mary Cermak        | Sue Jones    |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading |                    | Sue Pettit   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading | Bill Dieffenbacher | Bob Pettit   |
| Chalice                 | Luther Chergosky   | Karen Cahill |
| Readings                |                    |              |

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|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Feb 28                  | 8AM                  | 10AM            |
| Lay Minister            | Debbie Dieffenbacher | Jim Garceau     |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading |                      | Zach Manchester |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading | Jackie Reece         | Carl Kinne      |
| Chalice                 | <b>Jim Buffum</b>    | Barb Dailey     |
| Readings                |                      |                 |

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### Vestry Minutes, December

To love God, Love others, Help Others to love God

Rector: Fr. John R. Martinichio

Wardens: Bruce Dailey, Jennifer S. Westermann

Vestry:

Eunice Barton (A)

Lynne Jones

Dolly Chergosky (A)

Jennifer Kakusian (A)

Duncan Finlayson (A)

Karen Cahill

Robert Pettit

Mary Gilfoyle

Lynda Helmer

Treasurer: Jack Westermann

Gould Fund Manager: Tony Ferrand

Fr. John opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m. with a prayer for a parish (BCP).

Gould Allocation Grants: Tony Ferrand presented the state of the Gould Fund. Overall we're doing pretty well as we have kept the draw at his recommendation of 4% of the fund.

Presentation data attached. Question posed to Tony from the diocese: Do we have a written investment policy? Currently we do not but Tony said he will write one up as requested by the diocese.

November Minutes: **Motion** made by Lynda Helmer with second by Bob Pettit to accept minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report: Bob Pettit and Jack Westermann

- Income – still a significant lag in pledges to date.
- Expenses – the checkbook looks better than it really is as November Treasurer's report does not reflect diocesan pledge/assessment nor the Theological Grant budgeted as neither have been paid out yet.

**Motion** made by Karen Cahill with second by Lynne Jones to accept Treasurer's report and the Gould Fund report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

- Stewardship – as of 12/08/2015 52 pledge forms have been returned for a total of \$134,738.00 for 2016. Reminder letters were sent to those who pledged last year but have not yet this year.

Consent Agenda:

- Budget 2016 – Bob presented the proposed 2016 budget, reflecting changes agreed on at the November meeting. Continued discussion of the budget resulted in other changes which he will incorporate; he will email the revised budget to all vestry members. **Motion** made by Lynda Helmer with second by Karen Cahill to approve the budget with revisions. Motion carried unanimously.
- Gould Scholarship – The committee appointed by the vestry to consider revising the by-laws for the scholarship recommended that the format be changed to remove the competitive element so that any *qualifying* senior be granted the award. Specific criteria must be met. Decision to award will be made by the Gould Scholarship Committee. The committee will consist of the rector who shall be the chair with no vote, one warden, one vestry member and one member-at-large. **Motion** made by Jennifer S. Westermann with second by Mary Gilfoyle to accept the revisions to the Gould Scholarship Award By-Laws dated 12/08/2015. Motion carried unanimously. **Motion** made by Jennifer S. Westermann with second by Bruce Dailey to set the amount of the award at \$2,000/year renewable for three years if criteria is met. Motion carried unanimously.
- Father John's Housing Resolution – **Motion** made by Jennifer S. Westermann with second by Bob Pettit to approve Fr. John's request to allocate \$18,000.00 of his compensation for housing.

Rector's Report: due to the length of the meeting Fr. John deferred his items of interest until the January meeting.

Wardens' Report: Bruce Dailey shared Gould grant thank you notes from Good Shepherd Communities, Broome County Council of Churches and Habitat for Humanity.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 12, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with the praying of the Lord's Prayer at 9:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jennifer S. Westermann, Vestry Co-Clerk