

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Epistle

January, 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.

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In a brief segment on The Today Show it was discussed what values we want to teach our kids. Honesty was number one at 43%, followed by kindness at 29%, a strong work ethic at 11% and a variety of others. Now think back to Advent III where we see John the Baptist preaching the same values in the passage from Luke (3:7-18).

Following John's exhortation, the crowds react to his exhortation by asking him, "What shall we do?" John uses these virtues in his response: he tells them "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you", "Whoever has two coats must share them with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise" and "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

John feels that if we do this we can avoid eschatological judgment and enter into paradise. We all know that God brings about the kingdom. Yet, we are called to witness to that Kingdom by living like it is actually here, that it will continue coming and that it is important to us.

Our world has changed dramatically over time as violence has become the solution to many situations. Where have we gone wrong? How do we get the pendulum to swing back to a place where we espouse the values that our country is based upon? We live in an ecumenical age where there are not only many different branches of religion but also of faith. Even though we might have differences, we all have similarities. These similarities can help us to bring about the Kingdom as we define it since all are based on the Golden Rule and are attempting to bring about their own definition of kingdom. Granted it must be said that there are extremists in every group. Outside of that we are asked to focus on our similarities and what we can accomplish together is making our world a different place. It starts with just one person, one act of honesty, kindness and a strong work ethic.

John's message is not just for the Advent Season. It is pertinent for all of time, even at the beginning of the New Year. What Christian values do we espouse in our own life and our church community? May the year 2016 be one where we begin a movement to make a difference, to be different, and to not just be the voice of John the Baptist but to be a prophet for the world in which we live.

"If we all do one random act of kindness daily we just might set the world in the right direction."

-Rev. John Martinichio +

Thank you to Kelly Parker Seeley and Lukas, Mark, Jennifer, Frannie, Joey and Tommy Vallone, Adam and Steele Moffett, Chrisitana and Ronia Dahlberg, Trenton Kosalek and Tammie Mangano, Jordan and Lynne Jones, Barb and Molly Martinichio, Austin Keuter and Jennifer Westermann for working so hard to make such a delicious lunch for the Trinity Canteen.

Thanks to Chris and Tim Petras and Jennifer and Jack Westermann for hanging the new shades in the Bell and Choir Rooms. Also to Jackson who made sure they did a great job! Thank you!

Thank you to Karen Cahill, Mary Cermak, Lynda Helmer, Susette Walton, Ray Besember and Steve Koerts for assisting with the Christmas Lessons and Carols service.

Thank you to Ted Wolf for installing the new toilet and grab bars in the upstairs womens' bathroom.

We thank Paula Giroux, Chimes 4 Jesus, the vocal choirs and the handbell choir for the wonderful job they did helping to make our Christmas season as beautiful as it was.

Thank you to Karen Cahill, Eunice Barton, Jane Parker and Jennifer Westermann for covering in the office. It is truly appreciated.

A big thank you to Dick White for again allowing us to choose a tree for our sanctuary. What a beauty it is!

Thank you in advance to all who helped decorate the tree in the sanctuary. It is sure to be a beautiful as ever.

A big thanks to all of you who purchased and prayed for Glove House, Wyoming Conference Children's Home and the Jail Ministry this year. Many gifts were donated, helping to make a brighter Christmas for the recipients.



For the last ten years Casey Korchynsky has headed to Gould Allocation Committee for St. Paul's and has decided to hand the leadership of that committee over to another person. At this time a replacement has not been named. But during her tenure Casey has seen St. Paul's award \$262,355.00 to other not-for-profit organizations throughout our neighborhood and beyond into the greater world. This has been no easy feat as all the application must be investigated and found to be worthy. Some have to be rewritten and other are not accepted for various reasons. Words fall short of the job that Casey has done over these last ten years. I ask that when you see Casey that you express your gratitude to her for a job well done. The Gould Allocation Committee is made up of Chip Kinne, Darrell Stone, Connie Hess and Louise Bystricky. We appreciate all they do in this effort.



### **New Year's Day Service**

Thursday, January 1, 9:30AM

St. Paul's will be holding a New Year's Day service this year at 9:30AM in the chapel. Join us as we celebrate the joys the New Year is sure to bring.



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Roberson's Home for the Holidays

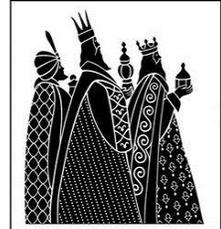
Please join us on Sunday, January 3, to see the lights, the trees and the MAGIC of a Roberson tradition - *Home for the Holidays*. **Home for the Holidays** is Roberson Museum and Science Center's largest annual event and busiest time of year, featuring hundreds of trees, dazzling displays, and the International Forest. The excitement and magic of **Home for the Holidays** has made it a community favorite for over 60 years. After a short coffee hour (11:30) we will enjoy some pizza and refreshments and go to Roberson. Please sign the sheet on the table in the back of Church. All are welcome!



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## Epiphany

Wednesday, January 6, 6PM



As the Christmas season ends, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. This is a celebration of the wise men's visit to baby Jesus. Please join us on Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 6PM. After a short service, we will be celebrating with a variety of ethnic foods. Please bring a dish reflecting your heritage or a time honored family favorite. We will wrap up the festivities with a piñata for the kids.

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Movin' On

Monday, January 11, Noon

Widows and widowers, join us for lunch on Monday, January 11. Stuffed pork will be on the menu as will great conversation and wonderful desserts.

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## Stewardship Thought

On January 6<sup>th</sup> we end the Twelve Days of Christmas with the Celebration of the Epiphany and the following Sunday we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus. We remember the coming of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. They brought with them gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. On Sunday morning we bring our gifts with us in our parish envelope as our gift to the Christ child. We do this each time we gather together. We, like the Wise Men, bring our gifts to honor our Lord and Savior. Thank you for your generous gifts.

The Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan by John is proclaimed in Matthew, Mark and Luke, as God proclaims Jesus his beloved Son with whom he is well pleased. This affirmation begins the ministry of Jesus. In our Baptism we begin our ministry. This ministry includes the time, abilities and your generous gift of funding of St. Paul's that enables us to tell our story both inside and outside our walls. I give thanks for your stewardship and ministry at St. Paul's



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Safe Church Training

Sunday, January 24, 11:30AM

Led by Safe Church Trainer Ruthie Koerts, this free workshop is intended for all people who serve in our parishes (paid staff, parishioners and volunteers), especially those in leadership positions, those who make Eucharistic or pastoral visits, or are involved in youth education and ministry. All parents are encouraged to attend; babysitting will be provided, if you do not know when your current safe church training is up, please contact the office. Safe Church Training is good for 5 years. To register, please contact the church office during office hours, (Mon-Thurs 9-2) at 748-8118.

Women of the Church

With 2015 coming to a close we look forward to a new year of activities. As decided at the December Holiday Dinner, we have two potential new ministries we wish to learn more about. One is how we may be able to assist in the ministry of Mercy House. On Thursday, January 14th, Sister Joanna will join us to discuss the soon to open Mercy House and ways that we might be able to provide assistance to the residents. We will meet at 11:30 for a light lunch and then the program. One other item of business needs to be finalized at our January meeting. At our December meeting it was discussed that interest exists in moving the rummage sale to earlier in the month when many of our shoppers have an easier cash flow. It was agreed we would look at availability of the undercroft and vote on a date in January. Since this is an undertaking of interest to the entire parish, we extend an invitation to all members of the parish to join us. A signup sheet will be placed at the back of the church to enable us to prepare for the appropriate number of people.

Our February meeting will bring Joan Kupetsky from My Brothers' Keeper Quilt Group to our meeting to speak to us of 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 4th 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. 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 will be no meeting in March as we observe Lent. It appears that 2016 will be filled with some exciting activities. Keep watch of the Sunday bulletin, your emails and the WOC bulletin board for further information.



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 January we pray for the following ministries:

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| 3 Flower & Candle Memorial | 10 Flower Deliverers |
| 17 Greeters | 24 Gould Allocation Committee |
| 31 Gould Investment Committee | |



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 Candle Memorials

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| 1/10 | The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in loving memory of Gary Powell from Sharon Powell. |
| 1/17 | The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in loving memory of Elizabeth Kroclic, (George's mother) from George and Janet Kroclic. |



Happy Birthday

1/5 Jewel Fenty	1/19 Bob Bakalar
1/6 Jeff Lee	1/20 Ruthie Koerts
1/7 Sue Kinne	1/21 June Palmer
1/10 George Kroclick	1/22 John Swavola
1/11 Anneliese Besemer	1/23 Carole Walton
1/13 Judy Shannon, Lucy Pompeii	1/25 Paula Giroux
1/14 Lynda Helmer, Mike Jones	1/26 Bruce Dailey
1/15 Chris Meade	1/27 Ron Reece, Bruce Fineout
1/17 Lisa Yacovoni	1/30 Jim Buffum



Happy Anniversary

1/2- Bill & Bea VanNess	1/26- Mary & Ed Cermak
1/11- Casey & Stephen Korchynsky	1/28- Sandra & Jerry Saccoccio
1/14- Lisa & Ray Besemer	

VESTRY NEWS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE is now accepting names for the 3, three-year terms positions and the 1, one year position. Names can be given to Jennifer Westermann, Dolly Chergosky, Connie Hess or Jim Garceau. A brief history of the person nominated is requested with a form indicating their permission to be nominated. The annual meeting is Feb. 14; nominations are due by January 10. The committee is a screening one only, that its only function is to verify that a nominee is qualified to be a candidate in accordance with the Canons of the Episcopal Church, The Diocese of Central New York and the By-Laws of St. Paul's Church. The qualifications are: being a baptized person over 18 years of age, being a baptized member of St. Paul's Church, having been in regular attendance at its worship and contributed to the its support for at least the last 12 months prior to the Annual Meeting.

General Job Description for all Vestry Members

All vestry members should strive to the best of their abilities to:

- Have a love of God and demonstrate a commitment to following the way of Christ;
- Be active in and knowledgeable about the congregation, its programs and governance;
- Be fair, interact well with people and strive to earn the respect of the members of the congregation;
- Purposefully strive to "check one's ego at the door;"
- Purposefully strive to be a servant of the people without the need to be the "most important person" in the congregation or the need to be the one with the right answers to everything;
- Have enthusiasm and vitality for this ministry.

All vestry members should be able to make the following time commitments:

- Vestry meetings, committee work, Vestry retreat(s), weekly worship services (rotating occasionally) congregational events: coffee hours, meals, fundraisers, adult education programs, etc.; Diocesan meetings, as necessary; Annual meeting.

All vestry members are responsible for:

- Offering talents to support the congregation's ministry;
- Praying daily for the rector, leaders and members of the congregation;
- Pledging financial support early in the stewardship campaign;
- Being active ministers of the Gospel in daily life and work;
- Bringing one's whole self to the table; being present – mind, body, and spirit;
- Risking openness with one's ideas, beliefs and desires.

Liturgical Ministers Schedule

January 3	8AM	10AM
Lay Minister	Debbie Dieffenbacher	Jim Buffum
1 st Reading		Judy Shannon
2 nd Reading	Bill Dieffenbacher	Sue Pettit
Chalice	Chip Kinne	Jim Garceau
Readings	Sirach 24:1-12	Ephesians 1:3-14

Jan 10	8AM	10AM
Lay Minister	Jennifer Westermann	Sue Jones
1 st Reading		Ray Besemer
2 nd Reading	Jackie Reece	Carl Kinne
Chalice	Luther Chergosky	Barb Dailey
Readings	Isaiah 43:1-7	Acts 8:14-17

Jan 17	8AM	10AM
Lay Minister	Jack Westermann	Georgia Wilber
1 st Reading		Zach Manchester
2 nd Reading	Garvin Alexander	Kelly Parker-Seeley
Chalice	Jennifer Westermann	Eunice Barton
Readings	Isaiah 62:1-5	1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Jan 24	8AM	10AM
Lay Minister	Mary Cermak	Karen Cahill
1 st Reading		Judy Shannon
2 nd Reading	Bill Dieffenbacher	Bob Pettit
Chalice	Chip Kinne	Sue Pettit
Readings	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Jan 31	8AM	10AM
Lay Minister	Debbie Dieffenbacher	Jim Garceau
1 st Reading		Sue Jones
2 nd Reading	Jackie Reece	Carl Kinne
Chalice	Luther Chergosky	Barb Dailey
Readings		

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Vestry Minutes, November 10, 2015 Approved  
To love God, Love others, Help Others to love God

Rector: Fr. John R. Martinichio

Wardens: Bruce Dailey, Jennifer S. Westermann

Vestry: Eunice Barton Lynne Jones Dolly Chergosky Jennifer Kakusian  
(A) Duncan Finlayson Karen Cahill Robert Pettit Mary Gilfoyle  
Lynda Helmer

Treasurer: Jack Westermann

Fr. John opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with a prayer for a National Holiday.

October Minutes: **Motion** made by Karen Cahill with second by Lynda Helmer to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report: Bob Pettit and Jack Westermann

- The Gould fund has rebounded to \$4,246,854.
- Income – still a significant lag in pledges to date.
- Expenses – have been contained somewhat but still a deficit of \$3,232 to date.
- Monthly Treasurer’s Report – nothing unusual

**Motion** made by Eunice Barton with second by Lynne Jones to accept Treasurer’s report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

- Stewardship – as of 11/10/2015 52 pledge forms have been returned for a total of \$108,548 for 2016. Reminder letters will go out the week of 11/16.
- Budget 2016 – Bob went over the proposed 2016 budget, noting that it currently is a deficit budget of \$22,732.
- Diocesan Pledge and Assessment
  - **Motion** made by Bob Pettit with second by Jennifer S. Westermann to commit to pay in full the pledge to the diocese. Motion defeated, 1 yes vote (Bob Pettit) to 9 no votes.
  - **Motion** made by Jennifer S. Westermann with second by Jennifer Kakusian to commit to pay the full assessment to the diocese. Motion carried, 9 yes votes to one no vote (Bob Pettit).
- The vestry decided to wait until next month to vote on the 2016 budget.

Consent Agenda:

- Audit for 2014 – Committee Chair Jack Westermann reported that the audit went fairly well, noting that we are meeting the diocesan criteria. **Motion** made by Jennifer Kakusian with second by Bruce Dailey to accept audit as presented. Passed unanimously. The vestry formally thanked the committee for its work.
- Sound System – Fr. John reported that Shirley Cifonelli received a thank you note for her generous donation to upgrade the wireless sound system in the sanctuary.
- Nominating Committee – A nominating committee for vestry members for 2016 is needed. It shall consist of the outgoing warden, Jennifer S. Westermann, one outgoing vestry member, Dolly Chergosky and one member from the congregation.

Rector’s Report:

- Kitchen “debacle” - Due to a turnover in both the company that inspects the fire extinguishers and suppression system and the Village of Endicott Fire Department, we were informed that the wiring to the suppression system is not up to code. Chris Welsh from Welsh Construction was contacted; he promised to do whatever is necessary.

- Kriswalus Estate – the necessary paperwork has been signed off on and submitted.
- CHOW Capital Campaign – The Broome County Council of Churches is requesting funding for the CHOW Warehouse Capacity-Building and Renovation Project it will undertake over the next few years. As we have had a history of committing \$3,500 annually to the Broome County Council of Churches, **motion** made by Jennifer Kakusian with second by Lynda Helmer to earmark the aforementioned \$3,500 to its capital campaign. Motion carried unanimously.
- Habitat for Humanity – During the September meeting the vestry approved a donation of \$100.00 to help fund a Habitat build in Nepal. Due to the current political instability in Nepal, Habitat has decided to put the build on hold and, as such, has offered to refund any donated monies. **Motion** made by Bob Pettit with second by Jennifer Kakusian to apply for a refund. Motion carried unanimously.
- Memorial Scattering Garden – Fr. John proposed that a Memorial Scattering Garden is created in the courtyard by removing the bushes that line the railing alongside the northernmost bench in the courtyard and replace it with low landscaping. This would provide a space to either scatter or bury cremains. Note: These areas would remain unmarked but a plaque would be placed in the chapel with those names on it. No action taken at this time, just something to consider.

Wardens' Report:

- Bruce Dailey shared Gould Grant thank you notes from Samaritan Counseling Center and Habitat for Humanity.
- Gober Education Fund – Several months ago Carolyn and Roger Doolittle, parishioners of St. Paul's, tragically lost their daughter, Anne Gober, to an accident with a drunk driver, leaving three children behind. **Motion** made by Dolly Chergosky with second by Lynda Helmer to donate \$250.00 to the Gober Children's Education Fund. Motion carried with 9 yes votes and 1 abstention (Jennifer Kakusian).

Committee Reports:

- Christian Education – Jennifer S. Westermann reported that the C.E. program really needs one more teacher for the older class. This would not be a weekly commitment, more like just once a month.
- Women of the Church
  - The fall rummage sale netted about \$1,500.00
  - The next meeting will be a Christmas covered dish dinner and business meeting.
  - WoC Chair Sandy Schwab created a survey for the church women as to interests and foci of future meetings.
- Welcoming Ministry – Jennifer S. Westermann reported that 6 baskets were distributed in the month of October and that giving them out right after the service instead of trying to do porch visits is working out well.
- Gould Scholarship Committee – The committee had its first meeting in November; no recommendations yet to bring to vestry.

Fr. John was wished a Happy Birthday by members of the vestry with cupcakes, a card and song.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 8, 2015, 7:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM  
Minutes submitted by Jennifer S. Westermann, Vestry Co-Clerk

