

# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

# The Epistle

November, 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.**

## **From Your Rector**

November is traditionally known as the month when we celebrate All Saints and All Souls Day, November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. It is a time when we remember those we love but see no longer, those we know and those who have graced us with their foundation of faith. I have been present with parents and their stillborn child to the aged, those who have died at the hands of others or their own. I have been in crowded rooms with family members present and at times the only one in the room. Some have died at peace having finished their "business" with their affairs in order and there are those who die unprepared. But is always at that moment of death where you sense and see "peace". That moment of the final breath, the Spirit leaves the body and returns to its Creator. We look at life in its totality from the moment of life to the moment of death. We celebrate the whole life of the person and know that one moment does not or should not define us.

It is our faith that allows us to see that there is more to life than what we see before us. Faith reminds us of our relationship and of all creation with our God. Our faith is not going to "fix our grief" or take away our feeling and emotions. In the midst of asking the ultimate question of "why" we come up short. But we find comfort knowing that there is more to life than what we see. We find hope, peace and comfort and the Light of Christ dispels the darkness of our grief. Because of faith we make the choice to look at this mystery of death not from the point of view of the world which says there is an ending, parting, losing, but from the eyes of faith that says we are all made in the image and likeness of God. As Scripture assures, God cannot deny Himself. We know that there is a place prepared for us, a place not made with hands but eternal in the heavens. It is Christ the Good Shepherd that carries us home to be at peace with God our Father.

The church gives us symbols to remind us and to point us to this eternal life. The person who has died is covered with a white cloth, called a pall, to signify their Baptism but also to signify that we are all equal in the eyes of God. The Easter Candle is lit to remind us that Christ is the light of the world and being baptized into His death and resurrection we share in that light. That Light is what continues to guide us on our earthly journey.

Father John+





Bill Freeman for fixing the offering plate that was coming apart and in need of repair.

John Fillo for leading the Forum on technology being the key to understanding how we got to where we are today. We appreciate his insight and his spending time with us in this fascinating topic. Thanks, John!

Melissa Moon for updating the Vestry members on the bulletin board in the narthex of the church. It looks great! We appreciate your willingness to take this on.

Jennifer Westermann for painting the Sunday School classroom.

Jack Westermann, Mitzi and Don Manning for helping with our indoor clean-up day by hanging shades in the aforementioned classroom.

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## Women of the Church News



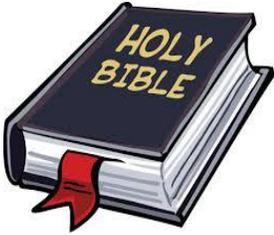
*Women of the Church*

Our November 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting will commence at 5:30 with a covered dish dinner, which will be followed by a program. Jennifer Vallone, who is a nutritionist and a member of St. Paul's, will speak to us about nutrition, a healthy lifestyle and answer our questions. There is so much focus today on what is good to eat, what isn't, obesity, and staying healthy. As we age, it is important to know what helps us and what hurts us – and as we certainly want to remain healthy and mobile there must be a way to do this without spending hours in the kitchen. Don't worry – Jennifer won't mind if we have a high calorie dessert before the program or maybe even nibble on a cookie while she is speaking. Join us for food, fellowship, and a program that will benefit us all. If you know Jennifer, then you know it will be a fun and informative presentation delivered with a smile. A sign up sheet is also at the back of the church for this event.

The next sleeping bag workshop will be held on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 12:00 noon. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass for a simple lunch, and then we will move on to our work. A sign-up sheet will be placed at the back of the church.

Our December meeting will be held on December 7<sup>th</sup>. This will be our holiday dinner. Watch for further information on this event.

Sandy Schwab, Chair



## Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina continues to meet on Monday, November 7 and November 21 at 6:00 PM in the home of Linda Littell, 525 Airey Ave. in Endicott. Lectio Divina is a meditative way of looking at Scripture. No reservations or notification needed; just come! Speak with Fr. John if you have any questions.



## Stewardship Thought

I have heard of a couple that gathered a church of homeless people in Las Vegas, Nevada, a town not known for its generosity to the poor. Each Sunday, in this little church, the offertory plate was passed with these words, "Give as you are able; take from it if you are in need." Each Sunday, the plate was filled with dimes, quarters, and sometimes a crumpled bill. No one took from the plate as it was passed. Each Sunday, the congregation chose one of their own, the most needy, to receive the offering. In their giving of what little they had, they were blessed and were a blessing to one of their own. A mother of a sick child, who was given the offering one Sunday, wiped tears from her eyes as she said that no one had ever just given her money before. Thank you, God. It is truly more blessed to give than to receive.

Thank you

Fr. John+



## Our Annual Asking Campaign

The Vestry of St. Paul's has fiduciary responsibility over the financial matters of the church. Each year about this time we have a "pledge campaign" where we ask you to pledge your financial commitment to the church for the next year. It helps the vestry to plan and navigate the budget for the coming year if we have an idea of our income. Even though we have the Bernice Gould Fund we try to keep our withdrawals below the recommended 4%. In order to preserve the fund we look to members of the congregation to support us in our vision and mission. We rely on the generosity of our members to help us financially but also by their prayers and support. Your attendance at our services and programs is as important as your financial commitment.

We use the term stewardship in varied ways. Stewardship by its very definition is about time, talent and treasure. I don't think we can separate them from the definition but must incorporate all three of them into our spiritual lives. All three of them give balance to the expression of our Christian faith. Some people work towards tithing or sacrificial giving of 10% of their income to charitable organizations such as the church.

Fr. John+





## 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 November we pray for the following ministries:

### November

11/06	Counters	11/20	Eucharistic Visitors
11/13	Eucharistic Ministers	11/27	Flower Deliverers



## Flower Memorials

- 11/06 The flowers on the altar are in loving memory of Michael Kakusian's Graduation from the United States Marines.
- 11/13 available
- 11/20 available
- 11/27 available



## Sanctuary Candle Memorials



- 11/06 available
- 11/13 The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in loving memory of Irene Pursley, from her daughter, Janet Kroclicik.
- 11/20 The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in loving memory of Elaine Rozina from her daughter and son-in-law, Beth & Cliff VanDervort.
- 11/27 available



Note: Please call the office (748-8118) any time during the month if you would like to designate the altar flowers or candles in memory of a loved one, to recognize a special event or simply in thanksgiving for God's many blessings. Forms are in the back of the church. Dates may be shared.





## NOVEMBER

- |       |                         |       |                                 |
|-------|-------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|
| 11/01 | Ida Williams            | 11/16 | Trenton Kosalek                 |
| 11/02 | Darrell Stone           | 11/17 | Marie DePew, Bill VanNess       |
| 11/09 | Leroy Chellis           | 11/20 | Barb Dailey                     |
| 11/10 | Father John Martinichio | 11/22 | William Krska, David Sisenstein |
| 11/11 | Clifford VanDervort     | 11/23 | Maureen Wilson                  |
| 11/13 | Goldie Fairbank         | 11/24 | Frank Penrose                   |
| 11/14 | Janet Manchester        | 11/30 | Steve Koerts, Donna Williams    |
| 11/15 | Jenell Clayton          |       |                                 |



## NOVEMBER

- |       |                         |       |                                 |
|-------|-------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|
| 11/17 | Ralph and Dorothy Riley | 11/27 | Linda Littell and John Perestam |
|-------|-------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|



Are you a November birthday or anniversary but you don't see your name here? Please let the office know so we can update our records! We don't want to miss anyone!





## Sunday, November 6



Daylight Savings Time ends. Remember to turn your clocks back one hour. Note: It is generally more convenient to do this before going to bed on Saturday, November 5.



## Veterans' Day Service Sunday, November 6

If you or a loved one is currently or has served in any branches of the armed forces, please provide us with the name, branch and dates served on the form in the back of the church as we will be taking a moment to recognize the sacrifices made by our military personnel.



## Holy Eucharist is Available to Homebound



Not able to attend services? Not to worry, we'll bring church to you! Holy Eucharist is available to people who are in nursing home facilities or are homebound. Please request a Eucharistic Visitor by calling the parish office at 607-748-8118.



## Rector's Forum for November

During the month of November the Rector's Forum will continue covering a study of the Apostles. There will be no Rector's Forum on November 27<sup>th</sup> due to the Advent Workshop.



## Prayer Requests



If you know someone who might benefit from our prayers, please use the form in the basket on the table in the back of the church. You may place the form in the collection plate or drop it in the office.



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## #Episcopalians Vote

This November 8, our nation will head to the polls to decide several important elections, and there are many opportunities for Episcopalians to engage in this electoral process.



Official Episcopal policy recognizes voting and political participation as acts of Christian stewardship, calling upon congregations to engage in conversation on public policy issues, to develop voter registration and issue education campaigns, and to advocate for protection of voting rights.

Watch for the Episcopal Church's social media campaign using #EpiscopaliansVote. For questions, contact Lacy Broemel in the Episcopal Church Office of Governmental Relations. [lbroemel@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:lbroemel@episcopalchurch.org). 202-599-8601.

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## Movin' On Luncheon

Monday, November 14, Noon



The Movin' On Lunch will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of November. The menu for the day will be hamburger soup. All widows and widowers are invited to share in this time of food and fellowship on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, at noon in Fellowship Hall.

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## Advent Workshop

Sunday, November 27, 11AM

St. Paul's Annual Advent Workshop will take place on Sunday, November 27, following the 10AM service. Join us as we craft a decoration for the Christmas Season. All are welcome. Not crafty? Just come for some fellowship and pizza.



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## CHOW Notes



Thank you to all who brought in empty egg cartons for our CHOW deliveries. We have enough at this time.



## Volunteers Needed at Danielle House

If you are looking to invest a few hours each week to serve families in a medical crisis, Danielle House may be the charity you would love to be a part of. Danielle House is our local healthcare hospitality home. To learn more, please visit the website at [www.daniellehouse.org](http://www.daniellehouse.org), or call 724-1540.



## Acolytes Wanted

Are you in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade or older? Then you are eligible to become an acolyte! Fr. John will be training all interested persons, youth through adult. Please let him know if you feel a call to this ministry. All servers are needed: alms bearers, torch bearers and crucifers. If the ranks grow big the flags will be included as well!



## Happy Thanksgiving!



May our God bless you today and each day that follows.  
May you hear His voice, follow His footsteps,  
Be comforted by His care and live in His grace  
Now and forever. Amen



## November Liturgical Ministers Schedule

**Please note:** Liturgical Ministers are needed for the Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday, November 23 both Christmas Eve services, 6:00 PM and 10:00 PM and the 9:00 AM service on Christmas Day. If you are interested please see Fr. John or notify the office: 748-8118 or stpaulschurch@stny.rr.com.

November 6	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Lay Assistant	Debbie Dieffenbacher	Ruthie Koerts
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading		Carl Kinne
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Luther Chergosky	Georgia Wilber
Chalice	Chip Kinne	Judy Finlayson
Readings	Lamentations 1:1-6	2 Timothy 1:1-14

November 13	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Lay Assistant	Jane Parker	Georgia Wilber
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading		Judy Shannon
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Jack Westermann	Ruthie Koerts
Chalice	Garvin Alexander	Eunice Barton
Readings	Jeremiah 29:1,4-7	2 Timothy 2:8-15

November 20	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Lay Assistant	Jennifer Westermann	Jim Buffum
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading		Zach Manchester
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Jackie Reece	Sue Jones
Chalice	Mary Cermak	Barb Dailey
Readings	Jeremiah 31:27-34	2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

**November 23** – Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7:00 PM – Please call the office if you would like to serve.

November 27	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Lay Assistant	Jack Westermann	Sue Jones
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading		Bob Pettit
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Jane Parker	Suzanne Pettit
Chalice	Debbie Dieffenbacher	Ruthie Koerts
Readings	Joel 2:23-32	2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18

Note: If you are unable to serve on a given week, please try to find a substitute. **Luther Chergosky is available as a substitute Lay Assistant for 8:00 services.** If you need a phone number, please call the office at 748-8118. Copies of our church directory are available as well for your convenience.

St. Pauls' Episcopal Church  
Vestry Minutes, September 13, 2016  
Approved with a correction

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

Rector: Fr. John R. Martinichio

Wardens: Bruce Dailey, Jennifer S. Westermann

Vestry:

Eunice Barton

Mary Gilfoyle

Ruthie Koerts

Karen Cahill

Lynda Helmer

Robert Pettit

Duncan Finlayson (A)

Lynne Jones

Richard Schwab (A)

Treasurer: Jack Westermann

Fr. John opened the meeting at 6:58 p.m. with a prayer from the book Prayers for an Inclusive Church by Steven Shakespeare.

**July Minutes:** Under Warden's Report Bruce would like to thank Barb Dailey for bringing him a shop vac as he handled the flooding of the undercroft near the elevette. **Motion** made by Lynda Helmer with second from Karen Cahill to accept the July minutes with this correction. Motion carried unanimously.

### Financial Reports

Bob Pettit -

- Gould draw - If we continue with our budgeted monthly draw from the Gould fund of \$14,250/month the year-end total draw will be below the recommended maximum amount of 4%.
- Income vs. Expenses – income slightly ahead of expenses for the month

Jack Westermann – no surprises

- Flower and Candles Memorial fund balance - \$8,441.07
- CHOW - \$3,603.07 balance from donations plus \$3,413.28 left from budgeted amount
- CHAP - \$2,760.70 balance from donations plus \$588.23 left from budgeted amount
- The 2015 audit will be ready for the October vestry meeting. Main issue found was incomplete record keeping concerning purchases charged to the church's VISA card.

**Motion** made by Ruthie Koerts with second from Eunice Barton to accept the financial reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### Consent Agenda

- Repurposing of Gould Grant: Fr. John noted that in August the church received a call from The Vestal Parks and Recreation Department asking permission to repurpose a Gould grant it received. As there was no August meeting, Fr. John requested that the vestry vote on this issue via email. The request was approved with a vote of 7-1. Casting a yea vote: Eunice Barton, Jennifer S. Westermann, Bruce Dailey, Bob Pettit, Lynne Jones, Lynda Helmer, Ruthie Koerts. Casting a no vote: Richard Schwab. Request was approved.
- Contract for Tony Farrand: The agreement between Tony and the church allowing Tony to be the church's investment advisor for the Gould Fund. The only change Tony made was to the date, updating it to September 13, 2016. Request made to change item 6 from *approximately \$750.00 annually* to *approximately \$1,100 biannually*. **Motion** made by Bob Pettit with second from Bruce Dailey to approve agreement with changes. Motion carried unanimously.

- Church Landscaping Maintenance Agreement – Hillside Gardens submitted a contract outlining a maintenance plan for the new landscaping. Plan included spring clean-up, monthly maintenance and a fall clean-up. **Motion** made by Eunice Barton with second from Lynne Jones to hire Hillside Gardens to do a spring clean-up only at a cost of \$800-1,100 with church members handling the monthly and fall jobs. Motion carried unanimously.
- Broad St. landscaping – The vestry requested a quote from Hillside Gardens to tear out and replace the landscaping on the Broad St. side of the church at a cost of \$6,100. **Motion** made by Eunice Barton with second from Mary Gilfoyle to hire Hillside Gardens to do this with funding coming from the savings the church realized by not paying a secretarial salary for five months. Note: The Women of the Church donated \$500 to the project so the net cost to the church would be \$5,600. Motion carried unanimously.
- Stained Glass window from synagogue – A quote was received from Willets Hauser to build a lighted box to display the stained glass window given to St. Paul’s from the now closed Jewish synagogue on Jefferson Ave. As the quote of \$12,668 was much higher than we expected, Fr. John has been in, and will continue to be in conversation with Willets Hauser about this project.
- Willets Hauser submitted a quote to re-cement the stained glass windows in both the church and chapel, where indicated, and replace the Plexiglas coverings with state-of-the-art Klear-flo© coverings. The immediate benefit would be better clarity of the windows as the old Plexiglas coverings have clouded over time. The long-term benefit would be to increase the longevity of the windows. The cost to the church would be \$15,651. **Motion** made by Jennifer Westermann with second from Bob Pettit to invite the parish to help with the funding of this project. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Rector’s Report**

- Bishops’ gifts – All parishes in the Diocese of Central New York have been invited to contribute to a retirement gift for Bishop Adams and a welcoming gift for Bishop-elect Duncan-Probe. **Motion** made by Lynda Helmer with second from Lynne Jones to contribute \$100 to the gift for Bishop Adams and \$100 to the gift for Bishop-elect Duncan-Probe. Motion carried unanimously.
- Unemployment case – Fr. John informed the vestry that the case concerning the request for unemployment by the church’s former secretary has been reopened. Treasurer Jack Westermann received a call from the unemployment office requesting information regarding the case. He answered what he could but Fr. John will have to call the office with more details of the situation.
- Stewardship – Fr. John is reworking the stewardship trifold we used last year for more clarity.
- Newcomers’ Dinner – Fr. John would like to schedule it for some time in November. Eunice Barton and Ruthie Koerts will work with him on this.
- Sabbatical – Fr. John’s sabbatical will begin after the annual picnic, Sunday, June 11 and will end on Monday, October 9.
- Vestry term expiration: The following members’ terms are up in February: Bruce Dailey, Duncan Finlayson, Mary Gilfoyle and Lynne Jones.
- Discussion on the perception of there being “closed groups” within the church. Efforts are made to invite all parishioners to engage in all ministries of the parish. The vestry is requesting that if anyone feels otherwise to please speak with the chair of that ministry or Fr. John or either of the two wardens.

A request was made that the vestry minutes be sent to vestry members as soon as possible after the meeting is over as memories are freshest then. Every effort will be made to do this.

## **Wardens' Report**

- Bruce Dailey shared Gould grant thank you notes from the following groups: Samaritan Counseling Center, the Broome County Music Educator's Association, St. Thomas Episcopal Church of Red Bank, NJ, Catholic Charities, Mom's House, the Jewish Community Center and the Upstate Foundation.
- Jennifer Westermann reported on the recently hosted Life Line Screening. The group was extremely pleased with the number of people who signed up for the testing, about 43; the church was pleased to be able to offer the space to this effort.

## **Committee Reports**

- Christian Education – Jennifer Westermann reported that she and John Swavola will return to work with the older class, Lynne Jones will return to her middle group and Ann Supa will be with the younger class. Kelly Parker-Seeley has offered to be a substitute and may work with the older class.
- Music Program – The Vocal Choir and Handbell Choir have resumed rehearsals; Paula Giroux will start the youth music program on Sunday, Sept. 18 after the 10:00 a.m. service.
- Women of the Church – Karen Cahill reported that programs through the end of the year have been planned with a Sleeping Bag project scheduled for Thursday, September 22.
- Gould Scholarship – Bob Pettit, Jack Westermann and Fr. John will meet to discuss spring awards.
- CHOW – Coordinator Karen Cahill noted that all those who volunteer to work in the CHOW pantry need to fill out a registration form. She realizes that some have been helping but have never been asked to do this so she is trying to get this corrected.

**Next Meeting** – Tuesday, October 11, 7:00 p.m.

The vestry used *Night Prayer* as the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jennifer S. Westermann – Vestry Clerk