

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
31 Rider Avenue  
Patchogue, New York 11772

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mailing Address  
Street Number and Name  
City, State 98765-4321



***Vestry***

**Wardens:** Conni Still and Cathie Pliszak

Ronnie MacDonald, Scott Harris, Maurine Jacobs, Barbara Ruest, Laura Cooley, Barbara Greco, Nancy Western, Teresa Julian, Charles Klagges

**Clerk:** Laura Cooley

**Treasurer:** Barbara Lapinski;

**Editor:** Conni Still

***Parish***

**Office Phone:** 631-475-3078      **Thrift Shop Phone:** 631-307-9154

**Email:** [www.stpaulspatchogue.org](http://www.stpaulspatchogue.org)

**Office Hours:** Tuesday – Friday, 9:30 AM- 1:00 PM Office Closed on Mondays

**Rector:** the Rev. Elisabeth E. Tunney

**Parish Administrator:** Ronny Pliszak

**Parish Ministers:** All the People of St. Paul's

# St. Paul's Epistle

Vol. XVIII ed.2

February 2019



*St. Paul's Parish Mission Statement: to be a thriving, loving, Christ-centered parish; a parish who knows Christ and makes Christ known.*

*We take seriously our Baptismal Covenant that says we will respect the dignity of every human being.*

*You are welcome to worship with us, to join with us in fellowship, and in our ministries, regardless of age, economic status, marital status, nationality, race, sexual orientation or gender identity, ability or disability, and wherever you are in your spiritual journey.*

## A Word from Mother Liz

Congratulations to the newly elected members of our vestry! Cathie Pliszak was elected for another two-year term as warden, Conni Still was elected to fulfill Robin Sconzo's remaining 1-year term as warden, Ronnie MacDonald and Barbara Ruest were elected for another 3-year term and Charles Klagges was elected for his first 3-year term.

I am grateful for all those who serve on the vestry. Serving on the vestry is a ministry and it is absolutely critical for the health of a church to make sure that people new to the parish have a chance to serve.

As the rector I look at our vestry meeting as an opportunity not only to form an effective working group and to provide opportunities for spiritual formation but also to develop closer relationships with my parishioners.

The term vestry is peculiar to the Episcopal Church/Anglican tradition. It comes from the fact that the vestry room was the place where the vestments were stored and it doubled as a meeting room. Hence those who met there were called "vestries."

Vestries are comprised of 2 wardens elected for a 2-year term and 6-9 members elected for a three year term. The number of vestry members depends on the by-laws. Our by-laws require 9 vestry members. There are two additional roles: treasurer and clerk. The treasurer and the clerk may or may not be members of the vestry. Barbara Lapinski is our treasurer and is not a member of the vestry. Laura Cooley is our clerk and she is a member of the vestry.

The roles of the vestry and the priest have places where they are distinct and places where they overlap.

According to Title III Canon 9 Section 5 the rector is responsible for:

- Worship and spiritual life
- Use and control of buildings and furnishings
- Education
- Stewardship Education
- Preparation for Baptism, confirmation etc
- Announcing the bishop's visit and communicating the state of the parish

- Charitable allocation
- Reading communication from the house of bishops
- Recording Baptisms, marriages, confirmations, and burials

According to the Canons vestries are responsible for:

- Acting as agents in matters concerning corporate property and the relations of the parish to its clergy
- Continuing worship in the absence of a rector
- Nominating people for Holy Orders
- Not a complete split between spiritual and temporal matters

*The wardens and the vestry are also responsible for the finances and the maintenance of the buildings.*

Together the Rector and the Vestry are responsible for:

- Discerning and defining mission
- Planning
- Being visible
- Assessing the current state of the parish
- Communicating with the parish, understanding the Church at large, connecting with the wider community

These are high level descriptions and the specifics of how they are managed on an operational level is different from church to church.

### **Vestry Highlights**

- A. The vestry approved sending a condolence card to Fr. Richard Chapin and making a donation to the Kindred Spirits Feral Cat Program in memory of his wife Jeanne.
- B. The vestry approved a contract for snow shoveling and salting with Complete Construction.

## **Stewardship Committee**

### ***Our Faith Community Seeking to do God's Work***

“Our faith community seeking to do God's work”  
 What does this mean to us this month? What is it God has commanded us to do? Love our God with all our heart and mind. Love our neighbors as ourselves. This is the month of valentine's day after all so love is what it's all about.

Is real love measured by the size of the red velvet candy box one receives or the beauty of a Hallmark card? Sure, it is all well and good to celebrate love, but do we truly understand the high cost of the eternal version? Does God get the eternal love equivalent of a box of candy and a card? Do our congregational missions get \$103 (The average amount we will each spend on each other this Valentine's Day) as an expression of love? Will they know we are Christians by our love or by an excessive dinner out and a dozen red roses? What does the eternal sort of Christian love even look like?

Dr. Cornel West admonishes us to “never forget that justice is what love looks like in public.” If that is true, then how we treat each other both in private and in public says a lot more about love than a box of Godiva Chocolates. How we treat the widow, the orphan, and the spouse are reflections of how we actively show our love for God. Whether we keep the commandments and serve one another in the name of Christ speak more eloquently about love than any fancy greeting card does.

Lest you think I'm simply being a holiday spoil-sport, let me remind you that we have really good news to share. Choosing to love God and neighbor is more life-giving and fulfilling than any trinket or token of affection we can purchase. Not only does holding fast to God come with an eternal life guarantee, it also leads us to live out that public face of love in ways that are much more satisfying than the finest box of chocolates—excellent stewardship and completely calorie free.

Why not consider challenging one another to a new way of showing love by serving one another

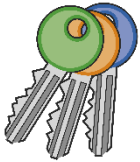
and finding ways to be the hands, feet, and eyes of Christ in the world?

Martin Minogue

Your Stewardship Committee:

Phyllis Voegeli, Conni Still, Laura Cooley, Scott Harris, and Liz Tunney

### **Buildings and Grounds**



Do You Have Keys To Our St. Paul's Kingdom?

If you have keys to any door in the church or parish hall please let Ronny Pliszak parish administrator know. List your name and your contact information, phone and email. Thank you.



*"Christ has ... no other hands but yours"*  
St. Teresa of Avila

### **Raise the Roof**

Thanks to all who have contributed to this and who continue to do so; we'll have updates for you in a couple of months. It's not too late to

begin to pledge, the work is ongoing, see the office for a pledge card.

Please include in your prayers this month:

#### **Those who are sick or in need:**

Craig Shaber, Dylan & Family, Ed Smith, Linda Bocca, Mary, Mike, Marcy, Lillian Hemmert, Janis McEvoy, Nikki, Phyllis Trypuc, Martin Gunkel, Bill Whyland, Bruce Demler, Mary Lou Immel, Jeannine Cranor, Emeka Azinge, Shirley Blecher, Conni Still, Ken Cooley, Ada Graniello, Ronnie Silverberg, Ronnie Roode, Lynn Schreib, Pauline Minogue, Donna T. Lucille Clark, Wilma Cooley, Lisa, Daniel, Sheamus Butler, Mikki & Family,

#### **Those who are serving in the armed forces and their families:**

Samantha Schwartz, Nicolas LoRusso

#### **Thanksgivings and Acknowledgments**

- All vestry members who agreed to run for a second term
- All those who donated to Mercy Center Ministries for Epiphany
- All those who purchased poinsettias
- All those who helped with the degreening of the church and the undecorating of the Christmas tree.
- All those who attended the Annual Meeting
- All those who contributed to the potluck brunch and Cathie Pliszak and Barbara Greco for coordinating clean-up
- Kevin Weeks for serving as parliamentarian and keeping us on track
- The Stewardship Committee
- Martin Minogue for Pledge reporting
- Ronny Pliszak for keeping our pledges straight
- All those who contributed to the rector's Discretionary Fund.

## Thrift Shop

As the Christmas Fair fell on December 1<sup>st</sup> during 2018, we organized our Christmas Sale differently, by containing the sale items within the confines of the shop. We had a very successful month. In January, we are looking forward to welcoming Judy Celauro, Barbara Greco and Ronnie MacDonald to the volunteer staff.



## St. Clare's Guild

It's a new year and we need to become more regular in our attendance while we plan out our projects for year 2019.

### Crochet Projects

- We usually have at least one project that is charity-driven and is in aid of some larger effort. Let's all scout around and see what is out there this year and discuss our ideas at the Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Then we need a group project we can all work on together (such as, for example an afghan or blanket) that we can sell tickets for as a fund raiser for the Christmas Fair

### Personal Projects

- Each of us may also be working on our own personal projects which may be any sort of needlecraft, sewing, knitting, embroidery or crochet.
- We meet on Friday at 2:30 pm in the Thrift Shop. Please call Jeannine or Conni at 631-307-9154 if you cannot attend so we don't wait for you. Thanks.



Volunteers are needed to host the coffee hours after the 8 and 10 o'clock services. Sharon Minogue will give you all the instructions on how to make delicious coffee and where all the equipment is kept, and the goodies are up to your imagination and baking or shopping skills! Best of all you can be reimbursed for your purchases. Please see Sharon to sign up.



## SAVE THE DATES!

March 5, 2019 Tuesday - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

March 6, 2019 – Ash Wednesday -Imposition of Ashes

March 31<sup>st</sup> - Rose Sunday, Parish brunch

April 14 - Palm Sunday

April 18 - Maundy Thursday

April 19 - Good Friday

April 20 - Easter Vigil

April 21 - Easter Day



Laura Cooley, Mother Liz, Kevin Weeks,  
Parliamentarian



Annual Meeting Brunch



Epiphany, January 6, 2019  
Three Kings  
Lylah, Emeka, Aleah



Congregation at the Annual Meeting study the  
Proposed budget and reports. Great picture of  
The new floor!



Valentine's Day Specials in the Thrift Shop



Oboe and Piano Concert  
Terry Keevil and Paolo Bartoni



Gifts for Mercy Center Ministries