

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

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*Vestry*

**Wardens:** Conni Still and Ronnie MacDonald

Emeke Azinge, Diane Butler, Tracy Classon, Barbara Greco, Martin Immel Jr., Maurine Jacobs, Charles Klagges, Barbara Lapinski, Shinaide Polley

**Clerk:** Conni Still

**Treasurer:** Barbara Lapinski

**Editor:** Conni Still

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**Website:**www.stpaulspatchogue.com

**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. XX ed. 1

**JULY 2021**



***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**

It is officially summer, a time when the glory of God's abundance is around us everywhere. Of course, that abundance means lots of sunshine, so remember to wear sunscreen; it means bugs, particularly mosquitos, so remember to wear bug spray, and it means heat, so remember to drink plenty of fluids. Relax, play, and party - but please do the last carefully and wear your mask when it is prudent.

*O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP pg 825)*

Happy Fourth of July! 245 years ago, our nation began a groundbreaking experiment in democracy. Our founding fathers set forth their vision in the declaration of Independence. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by

*their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."*

Most of these men sacrificed a great deal to bring their vision into being. They lost family, friends, property, and health over their position, as did many who fought for and supported the birth of this fledgling nation.

The Constitution, ratified some 15 years later, is the framework under which the words of the Declaration of Independence were brought into being.

*We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.*

Our country's aspirations about freedom and justice continue to inspire us and have inspired countries around the globe. They sustain us in

times of triumph and in times of trouble. They are the ruler against which our success and our failure will be measured.

Please remember that even as we celebrate this amazing accomplishment, the reality of how we have attained freedom for some was often at the expense of freedom for others. While we cannot remain oblivious to our faults, we also cannot reject who we are as a country because of these failings. It is up to each of us to work to make our aspirations a reality for us all, and with God's help, we will.

*Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (BCP pg 242)*

### VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

- The Thrift Shop has reopened to its regular hours, Monday, Friday, & Saturday
- 10:00 AM- 2:00 PM.
- The Karate School has reopened.
- The Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry have continued to serve food the same way they have been serving during the pandemic, handing the packaged food at the doorways, no clients in the buildings.
- Masks are still required in all buildings.
- Fundraising Brunch or Luncheon is still open for discussion.
- PPP Loan Forgiveness papers have finally been filed after some issues with a signature page.
- Safe Church Training will be required for certain members of the parish, and Mo Liz will distribute the links.
- The Summer Schedule will remain at 8 AM and 10PM. The 10 AM service will continue to be zoomed and on line with Facebook.

- The chart in the Narthex is available to sign up to Adopt-a-Plot for weeding and planting the gardens around the church grounds. Thanks to those who have already done a great job.

Respectfully submitted,  
Conni Still, clerk of the vestry

### STEWARDSHIP

#### Participating in our community of faith through giving

God's stewards at Saint Paul's Patchogue. I would like to share with you a summary of an article I came across in my readings a while back. For the article itself please check out *Are you a good steward?*

I hope you enjoy it. Martin Minogue

As Christians we have been given stewardship over all the earth, to care for those people and things for whom and for which we are responsible in such a way as to give glory to God.

Stewardship is not all about money. You are a steward of all of your possessions.

As a steward for God, you are answerable to God for how you "manage" your life on earth and everything in it: your time, your talent, and your treasure.

Check out the quiz below to see how well you are doing.

1. *Do you fully understand the essential truth that everything you have belongs to God? If so, then you need to seek God's guidance before every decision you make, whether you're just making weekend plans or making a big business investment.*
2. *Do you generally refer to the things around you as "mine": my life, my money, my car, my time? Nothing on earth is yours; everything is entrusted to you by God. But it is so easy for*

so many Christians to refer to their existence and say, "This is my life."

3. Do you put God first with your time, effort, and money?  
*If so, then God should receive your quality time, your most diligent work, and the first fruits of your labor. This is a good steward's response to God's goodness.*
4. Do you live with integrity?  
*God has entrusted you with so much blessings and He requires that you manage them with integrity. As the Bible says, "...whoever can be trusted with little can be trusted with much."*
5. Do you practice self-control?  
*If so, when was the last time you used your credit card, was it for an urgent need? Remember, a good steward understands the difference between his needs and his desires.*
6. Are you engaged in any form of service to others?  
*As God's stewards we must follow His example of servanthood. God desires that we use our life and resources to reach out to others and be a blessing.*
7. Do you often worry about your family's finances or your children's needs?  
*Why worry when all these are God's? Once you fully realize this truth, then there's no reason to worry about not having enough money to pay the bills, or that your children will not be provided for—even they belong to God.*

The article ends with this quotation from C.S. Lewis:

*"Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already."*

Stewardship Committee

Laura Cooley, Scott Harris, Martin Minogue,  
Conni Still, Phyllis Voegeli

## CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Dear Parishioners,

I need volunteers for our "Christmas in July" fundraising fair. I particularly need help with directing the vendors when they arrive at 8am to set up. Also, I will need someone to be a contact person throughout the day. I am having my knee replaced at the end of June and I am not sure how mobile I will be at the time of the fair. If you can spare some time please contact me. It would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,  
Cathie



## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS



The Building and Grounds Committee met, in the Parish Hall, on Tuesday, June 8. The committee members reviewed our grounds "to-do list" and reported on what vegetation was trimmed, removed or otherwise improved. Twigs and larger tree limbs were collected and discarded (or moved to an area in the backyard for more trimming and removal.) Since the meeting, the metal angel, that oversees a small garden area between the Rectory and Church, was repainted and returned to the garden. Some trimming was conducted and a hydrangea, used as an altar plant, was planted in front of the Rectory. The hedge at the south side of our driveway exit was cut down to improve visibility, as parishioners leave by car, or pedestrians walk north on Rider Avenue. Additional hedge trimming has been done by Dave MacDonald, Michael and Barbara Greco.

The Committee sends out a big thank you to the Cub Scouts and their families for the phenomenal May 23<sup>rd</sup> weeding, and planting of many annual plants around our parish buildings. Photos of this event were shared in [The Epistle](#).

In addition, the air conditioner for the Administrator's Office was installed. Fans were cleaned and have been distributed in the Parish Hall and, soon, the Church. Committee members continue to remove papers, used masks, cigarette debris and other trash, etc. from the Parish grounds.

Once again, we extend a sincere thank you to Parish members who have volunteered to tend to some of our garden beds.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Laffin & Scott Harris for the B&G Committee  
Bill Beebe, Diane Butler, Gail Davis, Scott Harris, and Dee Laffin



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

### **Raise the Roof**

Thank you to all who have contributed to this campaign. The final payment to our loan has been made. If you still have payments on your pledge to make, please continue to do so. Additional Funds will be placed in the building Improvement Fund.

Please include in your prayers this month:

Dylan and family, Noe and family, Dorothy, Jeannine, Pauline, Dan, Greg, Larry and Rosemary, Craig, Dan B. Sol, Merri, Maureen, Anne, Ronnie, Lorna, Joanne, Ed and family, Camille and Linda, Jackie, Jay, Mike and Jim, Jonathan David, Rob, Mary Anne and Robby, especially Fr. Terrence, Donna and Bob, Ada

If you would like a **name added to those who are sick or in need of our prayers**, please let the office know. We are started the year with a clean slate.

### **Thanksgivings and Acknowledgements**

- The dedication of the Food Pantry volunteers as it gets oppressively warm in the parish hall.
- Dee Laffin and the Buildings and Grounds Committee for their on-going work.
- Cathie Pliszak for organizing the vendors for Christmas in July
- All those who helped the Thrift Shop reopen ahead of schedule. It's so good to see our customers coming back.
- Martin Minogue for helping with our technical difficulties on Sunday mornings.
- All those who have been faithful in pledging and generous in giving.
- Niki D'Amico, Barbara Greco, and Rita Hihn for great work on the flowerbeds.



### **Prayer for the Parish**

Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Thrift Shop Doings**

The Thrift Shop reopened on June 5 to a celebration of balloons attached to our outdoor signs, thanks to Scott Harris, and our sign board brought out front as well. We had a slow day, but little by little our faithful regulars saw the sign and came in with big smiles, which we

really couldn't see because they were ALL MASKED!

Everyone wanted to know if we were all well, and we asked the same. They were very happy that we are back, they seemed to like our new arrangement of stock and everyone found some great treasures. Each day has brought old friends returning and some new faces that see the signs or our ads in the local papers and especially the word of mouth.

Our two new volunteers, Sharon and Robin have jumped right into the swing of things and will be completely able to takeover for the time I will be out for my knee replacement in July. Cathie and I will make a great pair this summer!

We all miss Jeannine's presence in the shop, but she is clearly codirecting from home when we need advice on pricing the linens and decorations and hope she feels well enough to return soon.

Do you still have coupons from your old birthday cards? We will honor them, so come shopping and support St. Paul's Thrift Shop!

If you would like to join our happy group in our ministry please call me or email me.  
[Connistill@aol.com](mailto:Connistill@aol.com) 631-472-1760.

### **Food Pantry**

Please consider donating food for the food pantry each week. If you are attending church in person then you can bring your donation on Sunday, if not, please call the office to find out when you can drop off your donation. **DO NOT LEAVE FOOD OUTSIDE WHERE THE RACOONS CAN GET IT. THANK YOU.** Feeding about 60+ families weekly.



### **SAVE THE DATES!**

St. Paul's is planning "**Christmas in July**" on **Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup>**. This event will feature vendors and a sale of Christmas items from the

Thrift Shop. This will be an outdoor, rain or shine, event. CDC guidelines, including wearing of masks and social distancing will be adhered to. Save the date: plan on helping out, shopping, and/or rent your own space for \$40.00. Contact Cathie Pliszak at (631) 475-1117 for more information.

Stewardship presentation by the Canon for Stewardship at 7:00 p.m. on August 11.

Vestry, Finance, Stewardship, Buildings and Grounds, and Christian Formation committee members, please mark your calendars!

### **Tag Sale**

St. Paul's is also planning a "TAG SALE" on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Contact Dee Laffin at (631) 363-2142 or Laura Cooley (631) 363-8209 if you can assist, or if you have anything to donate.





The whole north side of the church was weeded  
Thanks to Garden Angel Niki D'Amico!

Don't forget to pick your garden to take care of.



“For we need a little Christmas...”



Laborers in the vineyard