

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 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

**Parish**

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**Thrift Shop Phone:** 631-307-9154

**E-mail:** [stpaulspatchogue@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulspatchogue@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.stpaulspatchogue.com](http://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.8

**AUGUST 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**

As you know by now, I will be leaving St. Paul's at the end of September. This was a very difficult decision to make but it makes sense for me and the long-term health of this parish.

The pandemic has had and continues to have an impact on our life as a worshipping community. While activity levels in our ministries are returning to normal – even with revised procedures, church attendance is still down. Preaching is much more dynamic when there is a good crowd, making a joyful noise to the Lord (otherwise known as singing) needs critical mass to feel powerful, and it is hard to establish or maintain relationships without regular contact. Nevertheless, I am grateful to those who connect via Zoom and Facebook, in spite of some of our technological challenges.

Certainly, our Fellowship Activities have been curtailed by the lack of refreshments following the service, whether it's lemonade on the lawn or coffee in the parish hall. I for one miss the opportunity to catch up with you each

week. If you have been thinking about coming back on a regular basis, please do so, we miss you!

Furthermore, it will be vital for all of you to support each other until whomever comes in to replace me arrives and that you can demonstrate the vitality that is in this place.

That vitality was abundantly evident in all the work that went into making Christmas in July a success. It was wonderful that so many of you pitched in to plan, coordinate, set-up, donate, sell, and clean-up of the event and to see you chatting amongst yourselves and interacting with potential customers.

There are also some amazing parishioners who provide pastoral care and support to those in need, including: Tracy Classon, Laura Cooley, Judy Celauro, Rita Hihn, Dee Laffin, Sharon Minogue, Shinaide Polley, Jackie Root, Nancy Western, and Georgia Weeks. I suspect there are others but if I don't know about it I can't acknowledge you! These people have done grocery shopping, provided transportation, visited, and sent letters

or cards. They are an example of who St. Paul's is at its best, A parish that knows Christ and makes Christ known.

Please don't be anxious about the future, St. Paul's is a very special place. Diocesan staff will be working with the wardens and vestry to create a plan for who and what happens next.

### VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

- Facebook Service is weird, screen showing zoom attendees faces instead of church service. Emeka Azinga offered to look into the situation.
- Christmas in July is getting organized.
- Masks will continue to be worn in all buildings for now.
- Good news. Our PPP loan has been forgiven.
- They reserve the rights to question our documentation for a few years.
- No update on Safe Church Training.
- The audit will be completed by Emeka Azinga, Cathie Pliszak and Denise Titone.
- Mo Liz will ask Kevin Weeks to research procuring a memorial plaque for Mother Paulette.
- Mother Liz announced that she will be retiring on September 30. Her last official service will be September 26 but since she will not be moving until October 7 she will also celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi with the Blessing of the Animals on October 3.
- Mo Liz asked that anyone wanting to speak to her concerning her retirement to please make an appointment.

Respectfully submitted  
Conni Still, clerk of the vestry

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

September is another one of those "start-up" times during the year. Consider these questions: Will I continue participating in this faith community as I have been doing? Will I participate in another area of parish life --- try something new?

What sort of steward am I; where is improvement indicated? Looking back, how have I been participating; looking forward, what might I have been missing? For inspiration to Martin's outstanding article in our July newsletter.

Soon we'll be "on our own". Mother Liz will be off to her new life, and we will continue to be responsible for the life of this parish. What will a candidate for our next Rector see on a visit to us: parish life moving forward (developing), marching in place (stagnating), or moving backwards (disintegrating). In this world as God has created it, everything either grows or stagnates or rots. What will we do?

Most importantly, will everything we do flow from our worship of God --- the glue that holds us together. During August a quiet time in contemplation of our place in this parish might help each of us as we move forward.

**"Breath on me, breath of God, fill me with  
life anew,**

**That I may love what Thou dost love and do  
what Thou wouldst do."**

Hymn #508, v.1, *The Hymnal 1982*

Phyllis Voegeli, for the stewardship committee:

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



## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS



The Building and Grounds Committee met in the Parish Hall, on Tuesday, July 13. The committee reviewed our ground's "to-do list" and reported on the vegetation that was trimmed, removed, or otherwise improved upon. The amazing front hedge trimming, provided by Mike and Barbara Greco, and Dave MacDonald was highlighted. Thank you, Mike, Barbara, and Dave. Great job!

During our meeting, we discussed setting up Parish Hall areas to more clearly identify where the Food Pantry could operate with the most productivity and least interruption. Dee will speak with Judy Celauro and Mo. Liz to discuss a rearrangement so that the Food pantry would be able to use the front (western end) of the Parish Hall most effectively.

The remainder of our meeting was taken up by clearing and sweeping the shed in the backyard of the Parish grounds. Stored items and materials, that could be used by the Thrift Shop for the upcoming Christmas in July Sale, were removed and transported to a room in the St. Nicholas Wing. This will help the Thrift Shop volunteers sort through and perhaps use these items for the sale.

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

Respectfully submitted, Dee Laffin & Scott Harris for the B&G Committee



*"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, Lorna, Joanne, Ed and family, Camille and Linda, Jackie, Jay, Mike and Jim, Jonathan David, Rob, Mary Anne and Robby, Donna and Bob, Ada, Cathie, Michael, Nikki, Conni, Stephanie, Jack

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

### **Thanksgivings and Acknowledgements**

Christmas in July Volunteers:

- Seamus Butler
- Nancy Fava
- Barbara and Michael Greco
- Scott Harris
- Martin Immel Jr.
- Robin Krushinski
- Dee Laffin
- Barbara Lapinski

- Cindy LaValle
- Ronnie and Dave MacDonald
- Sharon and Martin Minogue
- Cathie and Ron Pliszak
- Jackie Root
- Natalie Young

And if I forgot to list your name, I am sorry, please let me know!

All those who said to Mo. Liz after receiving her letter, “we are sorry, but we understand”.

Dee Laffin and Timothy Laffin for removing a box spring and mattress from the second floor.

### Prayer for the Parish

Almighty and everliving 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. (BCP pg 817).

### Thrift Shop Doings

The Thrift Shop has been getting busier and today's successful Christmas in July Sale hopefully brought back many customers who discovered that we are reopened. It was so nice to see them.

The shop sold lots of wonderful Christmas items, gifts, ornaments, and clothing today. The donations were generous and beautiful, and we had a lot of stored items as well. Now maybe we will have some room for more donations for the future sales.

### 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. Please do not leave food outside unless you want to give the raccoons a treat.



### SAVE THE DATES!

“Save Your Stuff” Tag Sale, Saturday, August 14, 2021. If you can assist, or have anything to donate, contact Dee Laffin 631 363-2142 or Laura Cooley at 631 363-8309. Drop off information will be forthcoming.

Please note, Mo Liz is donating many items of furniture, to the tag sale, some of which will be too big to put out. If you are in need of an entertainment center, a china cabinet and matching dining room table with 6 chairs, Please let me know. They can be had for a small donation to the church.

Wednesday, August 11 @ 7:00 presentation by The Rev. Canin Suzanne Culhane, Canon for Stewardship. Members of the vestry, the Stewardship Committee, and Buildings and grounds should plan to attend. A Zoom invitation will be sent out on August 9.



Jackie shows off the great gift ideas.



Robin found a manger among the Treasures for Christmas in July



Is that Barbara in the Santa hat?



Great Thrift Shop volunteers set up so many things for sale.



Our former volunteer Tania came to visit – it was so great to see her!