



The Road to Damascus

June, 2013



Rummage Sale is a Huge Success

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the rummage sale. We had generous contributions, perfect weather, and a great turnout.

More on page 2.



Gilbert "Cha-Ching" Casey mans the cash box.

Vestry and Parish Focus on Moving Forward



After-worship meetings like this are central to discerning priorities.

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The Vestry has been looking at where we are and priorities of the coming year. An April meeting with Archdeacon Bill Coyne identified much about which we can rejoice, including our faithful members, with whom we look to the future, including people of all ages and our 8:00 a.m. congregation; greatly improved communications; the Children's Center as our most important mission commitment; the Food Pantry; growth of leadership; our worship; the beauty, visibility and use of our physical plant; the forthcoming Capital Campaign; the beginning of intentional New Member Ministry; youth ministry; social gatherings; and the nurturing of our seminarian, Jane Tillman (see related story).

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Rummage Sale (cont.)



Have I got a deal for you! Thanks, Carl!

Carla, Carl & Gilbert pretty much ran the sale both Saturday and Sunday. Dennis turned up mysteriously and critically at the very beginning and the very end. Kendra, the Graultys, the Taylors, Bill Maynard, Linda Day, Donna Besaw, and Natalie contributed heroic efforts of hauling and sorting. Tom and Marthe were the backbone of the whole event. End result - over \$1600.00 - a new record. And hundreds of people toured the Church, learned more about St. Paul's, and took home something to remember a beautiful weekend in Stockbridge.

Carl Sprague

From The Rector...

Clergy sometimes feel a bit nomadic as we move from place to place. But now that Marthe and I are back in the Berkshires, we know that we are and always will be at home here. So we've decided to take advantage of today's unusually reasonable real estate market and find a permanent home of our own. To ensure that I can remain readily accessible to the parish, we're looking within a 25 minute drive of St. Paul's.

What will happen with the Rectory? The Rectory is a wonderful home, but it's more than that. It already is used also for soup suppers, choir practices, Vestry meetings, open house, etc. The Vestry is looking into ways to make even more parish use of the Rectory in the short term, while preserving its essential long term role for clergy housing.

Faithfully,
Tom+



Vacation Bible School

Our annual Vacation Bible School for children ages 5 and up will be offered during the week of July 29 – August 2. We'll meet from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. each day. Donna Touponce is our Director. Assisting her are the Rev. Lois Rose, Carla McCormick, and Fr. Tom Damrosch. This is a joint offering of St. Paul's and First Church U.C.C. Stockbridge. It is free to all children through a generous grant from the Church of the Good Shepherd. For information call 298.4913.

Bring a Friend Sunday

Worship, music, historic architecture, stained glass? There are many reasons to come to St. Paul's. On July 7 you are invited to bring a friend to experience some or all of these. We're not doing this just to "boost membership," but to spread the word and invite folks into our community.

Moving Forward (cont.)

We also looked at areas which need attention now, including attention to Mission and Outreach, serving existing members while inviting new members, and the practical issues of property and finance. Finally, we began work on discovering God's preferred / promised future for St. Paul's. Highlights of this discussion included:

- Bringing focus/action plan to mission/outreach
- Bringing in new members and energy, which will change us
- At the same time, continue to strengthen pastoral care for existing members.
- Make the best use of God's gifted people. Pursue team approach

Bigger Picture

On April 30, the Vestry reviewed the findings of the Mutual Ministry Review and reviewed strategies developed over the past five years and progress made toward implementing them:

- Improve communications. Newsletter upgraded and made available electronically. Weekly communications by email added. New Website to be introduced this summer.
- Ensure support for needs of present parishioners. Pastoral Care and Worship Teams have been put in place. Christian Formation programs for children, youth and adults continued and re-established as necessary.
- Introduce an effective new member ministry program. Implementation under way.
- Replace investment funds used (primarily for deferred maintenance), and take steps to provide for future property needs. \$106,000 has been added to Endowment. Capital campaign is to be conducted 2013-2016.
- Recruit an effective Stewardship Education Team for Year-Round Stewardship. 2012.
- Ensure financial control and transparency. Policies implemented 2008-13. Deficits are being systematically eliminated.
- Ensure that we are relevant to the wider community, in Stockbridge and beyond. Children's Center continues to be key. Increased use of the church for public events. Input received from parish for establishment of a Mission and Outreach group. Raised up Dr. Jane Tillman as a candidate for the Priesthood.

Empowering leadership for 2013-2014

Parish conversations covering all areas of our life were held on Sunday, June 9. Some key matters raised:

Mission and Outreach Conversation



Vaunie and Kendra display a banner from the St. Paul's Children's Center – one of our most successful outreach programs.

- This area includes a new Mission and Outreach Steering Team which is being formed, Newcomer Ministry, the St. Paul's Children's Center, and the new Southern Berkshires Latino exploratory task force.
- This ongoing conversation is open-ended, remembering that Bishop Fisher has called on each parish to take outreach action and to be mindful of the needs of others.
- Junior Warden Vaunie Gaulty is pulling together our new mission and Outreach Team to help us go forward in this critical area

Administration Conversation

- Stewardship - time for an update on our new year-round attention to this. Results so far have been well worth the time expended. Finances continue to improve.
- Communications - Refurbishing our sign with larger lettering indicating service times, placing newspaper ads again, making sure inns and resorts have information about our schedule, reaching out to the Chamber of Commerce/Visitors Bureau.
- Our new website will be ready later this summer.
- Children's Center and related improvements are being pursued
- Conservation of our WWI banner underway, plaques from our Good Shepherd history and archives
- Garden is in the best shape ever. We're keeping a close eye on our trees.



Administration conversation in the shade of a Sunday morning.

Parish Life Conversation

- Ideas for meeting Sunday morning needs of all children, and ideas for children's music.
- Involving more people in pastoral care networking.
- Ideas for more adult education.
- Worship matters for consideration by the Worship Team.

Leadership Teams

Fr. Tom, Carl Sprague, Vaunie Gaulty and Natalie Boyce are working with the Vestry as a whole to encourage our various Leadership Teams to move forward in all of these areas. Teams being formed or enlarged include Mission and Outreach, Adult Education, Capital Campaign, Children's & Youth Ministry and New Member Ministry.

Parish News:

Jane Tillman is approved

Dr. Jane Tillman, of this parish, has been approved by Bishop Doug Fisher, the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts and the Commission on Ministry as a Candidate for ordination as a transitional Deacon this coming winter. She will then be eligible to be ordained as a Priest next year. Jane is currently continuing her internship at St. Helena's in Lenox and Grace Church in Dalton, working with the Rev. Daina Salnitis.



Loyal acolyte serves

Carl Casey stands with the cross he made for our Easter season. Carl is not only creative with all things mechanical, he is our regular acolyte and a key participant in our worship.

Congratulations to Lynda and John Morse

Lynda and John Morse were married at St. Paul's on April 20. They are steadfast members of our community.



Robbins-Zust Marionettes...



Performances every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 11 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Firebird July 8, 22; August 7, 19

Three Little Pigs July 9, 31; August 6

Carnival of the Animals July 10, 29; August 12

Peter and the Wolf July 15, 24; August 5, 26

Beauty and the Beast July 16, August 20

Rumpelstiltskin July 17; August 14,

Cinderella July 23, August 21

Jack and the Beanstalk July 30

Aladdin August 13, 28

Still only \$5.00!

Repairing the WWI banner



One of our most significant memorials at St. Paul's is also the most fragile. The WWI service banner that has hung on the wall opposite the porch entrance since the 1920s has succumbed to the forces of age and gravity. This banner commemorates the military service of 37 Stockbridge citizens in the Great War of 1914-1918 - four of whom gave their lives.

The banner's century old silk fabric has disintegrated over the years, and many of you may have noticed the tattered state of the old flag. With the closing of Good Shepherd last spring, two handsome memorial plaques commemorating St. Paul's clergy needed a new home. The obvious location for these is on the wall beneath the WWI banner. But our Altar Guild angel - Jorja Ann Marsden - pointed out that the condition of the banner needed to be addressed first. Calls were made to restoration experts. The estimates for repair ran into five figures. We decided to wait...

The banner did not wait, however, and before it fell apart entirely, Senior Warden Carl Sprague called his mother, Tjaša Sprague, a textile expert who studied textile conservation at Columbia University, to see if anything could be done. He delivered the old flag to her last week. Within three days Tjaša completed the painstaking work of hand-stitching the rotten silk fragments between two layers of neutral-colored archival tulle. The banner will soon be displayed again in time to commemorate the centennial of what ought to have been the "war to end all wars."