



The Road to Damascus

November, 2012



Bishops in our Midst!



We will soon be blessed by the presence of several Bishops. The Consecration of Bishop **Douglas Fisher** will bring **John Tarrant**, former Rector of St. Paul's and now Bishop of South Dakota, and **Katharine Jefferts Schori** (above) the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church into our midst. There are many special services upcoming:

November

22 Thanksgiving Day 10 a.m. simple service at St. Paul's led by Doug Rose.

25 St. Paul's with John Tarrant preaching at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

December

1 Consecration of Bishop Douglas Fisher at MassMutual Center, Springfield, 11:00 a.m.

2 Advent 1

8 a.m. at St. Paul's.

10 a.m. at Berkshire South Community Center, with the Presiding Bishop.

From the Rector...

We have been having a great Fall at St. Paul's, marked by renewed energy and sense of purpose. The Pastoral Care, Worship, Stewardship and Property Committees have continued to do great work, Eucharistic Visits to the sick and shut-ins are beginning, the Choir is singing regularly, and new leadership has emerged for both Youth Group and Godly Play.

A particular delight for me has been fresh encounters with Scripture since my Sabbatical. I'm finding that familiar Bible stories take on new depth week by week as I see them more clearly after my time and experiences in the Holy Land. And my explorations of family history and of relationships between Christians, Moslems and Jews across the globe have broadened my perspective in ways I am only beginning to appreciate. My gratitude to the parish and to the Lilly Foundation is profound.

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Dedication of a garden bench donated by friends of Fr. Tom.

From the Rector (continued)



Looking just a little ahead, December will be a very exciting month. On December 1st, many of us will carpool to the Mass Mutual Center in Springfield for the ordination and consecration of The Rev. Dr. Doug Fisher as our new

Bishop. I believe we are truly blessed in having such a leader for the next season of our life together in Western Massachusetts.

The next day, December 2nd, we'll have another truly special celebration. The Episcopal church came to Western Massachusetts 250 years ago with the founding of St. James Church. In place of our main service that day, we'll join with our friends from Great Barrington and Sheffield, and others from all over the Diocese. Our Presiding Bishop herself, the Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori, will lead us in a unique service of thanksgiving at 10:00 a.m. at the Berkshire South Community Center, 15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington. Please join us for this joyous occasion.

Our Christmas observance will include our beloved family Christmas Eve service at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, December 24 and a simpler service of Eucharist with Carols at 10:00 a.m. on Christmas Day.

On a personal note, I will be having prostate surgery in January. This will mean only a limited absence. The problem was found at a very early point and a complete cure is expected. Marthe and I are deeply grateful for the support being given to us.

May God bless us all in this season of thanksgiving.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom +".

Diocesan Convention

By Linda Day

This October Rector Tom Damrosch, Bill Grauly and Linda Day attended the Diocesan Convention. It was a thrill to see our retiring Bishop Gordon Scruton and Bishop-elect Douglas Fisher on the podium together, knowing our spiritual leaders would provide a smooth transition in the Diocese during these troubling times!



Bishop-elect Fisher and Bishop Scruton
ham it up!

Two things were noteworthy at the convention. First, the number of Episcopal congregants, nationwide, has diminished as well as the pledge numbers and revenue. Second, the Diocese received a reduced assessment to the national church and passed this reduction to its churches.

However, the reduced assessment money should not be used to simply offset a church's annual budget. Instead, each church should look to the needs of its larger community. Hopefully the savings will go to outreach and be used to enhance community programs and interchurch projects. Identifying programs and projects will require input from church members, and discussion by the Vestry.

A Very Important Message About Stewardship

Fellow Parishioners,

I'm happy to serve with others in this year's stewardship effort. Most of you have been associated with St. Paul's for many years longer than I have, so I must respect the traditions and practices around fundraising efforts in this parish over the years.

I have, however, observed that at least in recent years the stewardship effort at year-end has been a little mild, a little subtle, a little meek, a little shy about money. I do realize that this subject makes many people uncomfortable. If this year's stewardship effort achieves anything--beyond of course collecting pledges to support the church in the coming year--I hope we become more open about our financial needs and the vital importance that money plays in the work of the church. The good news recently is that our financial status is better than it has been, with opportunities to build and grow rather than just plug up a shortfall.

Simply put, it is a good thing, and a necessary thing, to talk frankly about giving to the church. We need more givers. We need more people who make specific pledges. And we need to be able to articulate why we have these needs--our mission and purpose, our outreach activities, our future--and we need to acknowledge the various reasons people have for giving.

So for the next few weeks we will be hearing from several members of the parish as well as from Tom, each person speaking from the heart and hoping to convey why they give and why you should too.

Thank you.

Bill Vogt



Leaf raking is one aspect of stewardship ...



So is the food pantry!

Email or Snail Mail? Your Choice

This newsletter is available by email or by regular mail. We would like to know which you prefer (or both). Please let the office know in person, by mail or by email stpaulsstockbridge@gmail.com

News of Church Leaders...

- The Rev. Brent Damrow will be the new Pastor at First Congregational Church, Stockbridge beginning January 1.
- We welcome the Rev. Michael Tuck as the new Rector of Trinity, Lenox. He and Tom have many church and family connections.
- The Very Rev. Annie Ryder will again be serving as our Dean in the Berkshires, succeeding the Very Rev. Hannah Anderson of St. Stephen's. Hannah will be going to New Hampshire next month to become Canon to the Ordinary to their new Bishop, Rob Hirschfeld.
- Deborah Johansen Harris is our new (and first) Diocesan Communications Officer. Deborah's mother is our friend Mary Lee Johansen.
- The Very Rev. Mark Hatch is serving as Interim Dean at St Paul's Cathedral, Burlington, Vermont.
- Bishop Justin Welby of Durham in England has been named as the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury. Bishop Justin was until recently Dean of Liverpool Cathedral, where his senior assistant was the Rev. Canon Cynthia Dowdel, a friend of this parish. More information is at www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/nov/09/justin-welby-archbishop-of-canterbury

Facebook Group is Formed

As part of our outreach and communications programs, St. Paul's has formed a Facebook group. Please check it out, join, and be an active participant!



Here's the link:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.448991908480283&type=1#!/groups/448989971813810/>



memory of Lucy Morris will have a spot near the organ loft. Sculptor Daisy King's beautiful plaster bas-relief of Arthur Lawrence, which is an early draft of her bronze memorial at St. Paul's, will be given a place in the Sacristy.

Plaques from Good Shepherd

Plans are underway to provide a new home at St. Paul's for some of the memorials from The Church of the Good Shepherd. A pair of large bronze and marble plaques that were in back of the South Lee Church will be relocated to the wall facing the main door of St. Paul's, beneath our WWI service banner. Both of these plaques are memorials to St. Paul's assistant ministers who served in South Lee. A smaller wooden plaque in

How you can help with Sandy relief

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This is a message I received from the Rev. Daina Salnitis from St. Helena's in Lenox and Grace Church in Dalton. Daina is a police chaplain trained in emergency response and has been deployed to the Jersey Shore.

We have been in contact with the Bishop's office in the Diocese of NJ and they are not able to offer any assistance with housing. If you can find a place to stay and can go down and help out it would be greatly appreciated. Time is of the essence.

Volunteers are needed to help take out furniture, rip out carpets, cut out dry wall, etc. before mold sets in those homes affected by Sandy. Volunteers report every morning at 8 AM at Lacey United Methodist Church, 203 West Lacey Rd., Forked River, NJ. This is a disaster shelter with an extensive feeding program.

Overnight accommodations are the responsibility of each group coming since the UMC church has victims sleeping in its parish hall and church. Perhaps folks have friends in the area that may have power with whom they could stay?

Blessings,
Steve Abdow
Diocesan Disaster Coordinator



Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) is coordinating with dioceses impacted by Superstorm Sandy to support relief activities that respond to emerging community needs. Here's how you can help:

Episcopal Relief & Development has made available a number of resources to help congregations and individuals support healing and recovery after Hurricane Sandy.

Please visit www.er-d.org/Hurricane-Sandy for the latest updates on relief efforts, and please consider donating to the Hurricane Sandy Response Fund using the following link: <http://www.er-d.org/donate-select.php>.



Christmas Flowers and Plants

I/We would like to contribute

In memory of

In thanksgiving for

Name

Please turn in at church, fax to 413.298.0006, mail to POB 704 Stockbridge MA 01262,
or e-mail the information to stpaulsstockbridge@gmail.com to reach the office by Friday
morning, December 21.