

The Annual Meeting of St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Stockbridge, Massachusetts  
February 9, 2014



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## **Senior Warden**

This last year at St. Paul's has been the most encouraging yet of my four years as Senior Warden. I see new faces in our congregation, new commitment to our children and to education, new attention to the spirit of our worship, new energy toward outreach. I also see that for the first time in my twelve year service on the vestry, we have closed the year in the black and are projecting a balanced budget for 2015.

I'm pleased we're in such a positive place at the moment that I'm passing along the Senior Warden post to Vaunie Grauly. And this changing of the guard may be the best news of all, since Vaunie has a focus and a vision of what our Church can be that will lead us well through the transitions we face in the next few years.

While nominally stepping down, I'm actually stepping up my effort with our long-planned Capital Campaign. Letters will be going out to the community explaining our goals for this. Please speak to me about any thoughts and suggestions you may have toward making our Campaign a success.

*Carl Sprague*

## **Junior Warden**

We are so blessed at St. Paul's. Our lay and clergy leadership is strong and dedicated. Our finances are shaping up nicely. And we have a growing membership comprised of families and individuals who really enjoy each other!

As Senior Warden, Carl's dedication to all things St. Paul's has been tireless and comprehensive. With grace and calm he has ably attended to management of the Capital Campaign, oversight of Communications and upkeep of our historic buildings and property. Thank you, Carl!

Highlights of the year include: The year 2013 was marked by a strengthening of our committee structure and expansion of committee membership. A "check-in" was held after church on June 9 to discuss three areas of Parish Life: Mission and Outreach, Parish Life and Administration. Our own Jane Tillman was ordained to the Diaconate in a splendid service at the Cathedral in Springfield. Bishop Fisher visited in January and confirmed several members; he also met with the Vestry.

But most important of all, we continued to come together for Sunday worship services at 8 and 10, led with joy and enthusiasm by our energetic rector, Tom Damrosch.

*Vaunie Grauly*

## **Mission and Outreach**

In 2013 a new Mission and Outreach Steering Team was formed. The committee has connections to several outreach projects including the Lee Food Pantry, Construct in Great Barrington, Newcomer Ministry, the St. Paul's Children's Center, and an exploratory group, the Southern Berkshires Hispanic/Latino task force

Parishioners were surveyed in March to determine priorities and shape the planning for 2013. The consensus was that St. Paul's efforts should remain small and deep, focused on the local area, not the region or the world. Involvement of our young people was also named as a priority.

Remembering that Bishop Fisher has called on each parish to take outreach action and, in the words of my favorite grace, to "be mindful of the needs of others," we revived the Giving Tree and donated more than \$300 towards buying fresh produce for the food pantry. We initiated Food Pantry Sunday, the first Sunday of each month, when folks are encouraged to bring in diapers and non-perishable food. We invited Cara Davis to speak to the committee about the work carried out by Construct, an agency that provides housing and job training support for those in need.

Committee discussions have emphasized increasing the visibility of the church, and its outreach in the community. With the Vestry's encouragement, the team will examine the questions, "How does the community see St. Paul's Church?" and "How do we want to be seen?"

*Vaunie Graulty*

### **St. Paul's Children's Center**

The Children's Center continues to operate at full capacity. This year we have been blessed with 7 full day students and 25 part-time students for a total of 32 students. These Students are coming here from all over Berkshire County and 3 are from New York State as well! We anticipate a full enrollment for the fall of 2014.

We were fortunate to have an experienced teaching staff. Combined, our staff, (including Lisa Kane, Patty Codwise, and Sandy Haywood) has close to 80 years of teaching experience!

We continue to partner with The College Internship Program in Lee and Berkshire Community College. Josephine Monseraud continues to be a volunteer with us from Riverbrook. This is Josephine's 10<sup>th</sup> year with us!

In January 2014 we were visited by The Early Education and Care Agency that is responsible for re-licensing our program. It was determined that 16 preschool chairs need to be replaced since they could pose a head entrapment danger. We will be buying new chairs when our budget permits. The backyard also has many tree roots that may pose a threat to children "tripping over". Therefore, we need to have the roots covered in a fashion that will not harm the trees. We still are pondering solutions for this problem.

This fall we had several unexpected expenses. There were two trees in the play ground that posed a safety threat due to several broken branches. The trees were removed. Also, we had some furnace issues, valves needed replacement. The hot water heated needed some minor repairs as did the dishwasher. These were very expensive repairs! Since using up most of the funds in the maintenance budget line item, it was crucial to start a fund raising committee.

While replacing the valves on the furnace, it was discovered to have some leaking pipes, a bit of water is leaking from them. We are currently, with the help of Bill Foster from Harland B. Foster, looking into the possibility that the pipes are still under warranty and may be replaced at no cost to us.

Several Parents were eager to start a quick fundraiser to help defer these unexpected costs. They decided to have a quick raffle, which benefited The Children's Center - \$4500.00 was raised within 3 weeks! The Committee is currently working on doing another cook book to benefit The Children's Center. We would love to have St. Paul's Church parishioners participate if they choose to!

The fundraising committee is also looking into the possibility of another larger fundraiser in the later spring/early summer. The proceeds would be for some maintenance projects including replacing the sandbox cover, repairs to the wooden structure and other minor repairs that will be needed in the near future.

We take pride in our reputation as one of the best preschools in the area! We are grateful to St. Paul's Church for the continued support we receive for the use of The Parish House.

*Lisa Kane, Director*

### **Lee Food Pantry**

St. Paul's Church continues to be an active supporter of and participant in the Lee Food Pantry, which serves families in Lee and surrounding communities. Our involvement is threefold: volunteering on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month (10:00 – noon), collecting food, and financial contributions. (Other churches, including former members of Good Shepherd, are responsible for the other Saturdays.)

On our Saturday, St. Paul's volunteers are very busy checking in clients, filling bags with groceries, stocking shelves, and trying to help in other ways, including with pet food. Although we generally have a good contingent of volunteers, we can always use more. Please contact Torrey Winn or Bill Gaulty if you would like to volunteer.

The second area of involvement is collecting food, which is primarily done through filling the baskets at the rear of the church with canned and dried foods. We have recently designated the first Sunday of each month as *Food Pantry Sunday*, because it comes just before our turn to volunteer. While food donations are welcome at any time, we ask parishioners to be sure to bring a contribution – even just a can of soup – on the first Sunday of every month.

Finally, St. Paul's provides financial support for the Food Pantry. Although contributions of food from individuals and organizations go a long way toward stocking the shelves, we often need to supplement these donations with bulk purchases of food. Beyond this vital financial support, St. Paul's stepped up with an exciting Christmas tree decoration project that raised in excess of \$200. This money will be used specifically to purchase fresh vegetables and fruit to supplement the canned and dried foods available during the winter months. This was a wonderful program and we look forward to expanding it in the future.

*Bill Gaulty*

**Treasurer's Report for 2013 and  
Budget adopted by the Vestry for 2014**

Income and Expenses

2013 Actual

2014 Budget

Pledge & Plate Offerings	74,396	86,840
Endowment Income	47,330	48,000
All Other Income	10,352	24,410
Drawdown from investments	0	0
<b>Total</b>	132,078	159,240
Salaries & Benefits	89,434	90,787
Property & Office	33,389	42,625
All Other Expenses	17,252	18,142
<b>Total</b>	140,075	151,554

Assets as of December 31, 2013

Checking Account	8,754.17
Organ Restoration	48,293.19
Memorial Garden	5,282.62
<b>Total</b>	62,329.98
Restricted Endowments	671,047.66
Investments restricted by Vestry	431,069.40
Evans Reserve	130,940.25
Rectory Reserve	10,855.71
Sedgwick (Rector's discretionary)	27,292.37
<b>Investment Total</b>	1,271,205.39

Cash and Investments  
Yearend 2012 and 2013

	December 31, 2012	December 31, 2013
Bank Accounts	68,302.71	62,329.98
Invested Reserves	123,444.95	141,795.96
Other Investments & Endowments	1,028,911.70	1,129,409.43

## **Stewardship**

The Stewardship Team is very pleased to report that pledges for this year are up 23% over last year. This quite amazing increase comes, we believe, from the more structured and consistent approach we experimented with, using some very effective printed material suggested by the Diocese. Even more important than the printed reflections were the testimonies from several parishioners who spoke from the heart about the role of stewardship in their lives. And surely God's grace, moving us to see more clearly that what we give comes from God, so that we really are giving back to God, was behind all our efforts.

Giving was very generous in 2013. A total of \$47,157 was received, including additional year end contributions. \$57,940 has been pledged for 2014.

An additional \$21,900 was received from other regular but non-pledging contributors, at a rate which increased significantly in the later part of the year. The Stewardship Team has projected that this giving will be \$23,900 in 2014, estimated on a very conservative basis.

We are grateful to all who have pledged and all others who give, in diverse ways, to the work of St. Paul's. We are truly blessed.

*Bill Vogt, for the Stewardship Team*

## **Property and Capital Campaign**

The Property Committee has been quietly very busy this last year. Everyone can see the wonderful job Bill Maynard does with the grass-cutting, and Chris Marsden remains the unsung hero who gets us through winter snows. Rob Maloney keeps cheerfully stepping up for jobs involving dangerous ladder work – from changing light bulbs in the nave to hanging the Christmas star. And Lisa Thorne has single-handedly taken charge of getting the Rectory in order – volunteering significant time spiffing the place up room by room and making a huge difference. Lisa also saw us through long overdue repairs to the Church gas line, not to mention critical efforts with the Sacristy loo.

This year we were finally able to install the memorials we inherited from Good Shepherd in 2012. These plaques look so at home in St. Paul's that many may not have noticed they weren't always there. Related to this project was the extraordinary volunteer work done by Tjasa Sprague to restore our precious, but disintegrating WWI service banner.

Maintaining our great parking lot and our driveway is turning out to be an yearly project. We're including this expense in the annual budget for the Church and the Children's Center.

Now that Tom and Marthe have moved to their new place in Pittsfield, we're glad to have found tenants for the Rectory. Please welcome Peter and Jennifer Lilienthal and their sons Paul and Josh. The Lilienthals have taken a year's lease. Pete is a gifted specialist in restoration of porcelain, gilt-work, and furniture. He's also an experienced general handy-man. Jennifer is a painter and avid gardener. While the Rectory is in transition, we're counting on the Lilienthals to help us maintain and improve it for our next clerical tenant. We've also welcomed Alison Larkin to her new sound studio on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Parish House, and set up a Parish Library in the Godly Play space.

The Capital Campaign is moving forward. A number of meetings and discussions have taken place in the last year, and we're now preparing a community appeal. A few pledges have already been made toward our \$250,000 goal – not including the \$150,000 already donated toward the organ and the endowed Evans Fund for ongoing maintenance. We're expanding the Campaign Committee. Your suggestions and contributions are deeply appreciated.

All said, St. Paul's Church property is looking in good shape, which is exactly the moment when we should start worrying about fixing it up!

### **Pastoral Care Team**

Besides our rector, the Pastoral Care Committee consists of Carla McCormick, Linda Day, Mary Taylor, Donna Besaw, Donna Touponce and Natalie Boyce. The team's mission is to provide spiritual, emotional, and practical support to those in need. Because there can be a need for privacy we sometimes work behind the scenes to bring comfort to those who are in trouble. Our members also extend their work to include people who are not in our parish but who are in nursing homes or living at home with serious illnesses. In addition to the work of the committee, Jackie Nicolas and Alice Wohl provide an much needed component of pastoral care by meeting with Tom on a regular basis to pray for those in need.

### **Vacation Bible School**

We had Vacation Bible School this year the last week of July. The Reverend Lois Rose from the Congregational Church and Tom did the religion which the children enjoyed. Especially when Tom built the wall with cardboard boxes and Lois did the feet washing.

Carla and I handled the rest with the help of Amanda, Josh and Shayne.

We started out with 12 children and then had 10 for most of the week. On Sunday we had our singing program which everyone enjoyed.

We are looking forward to another great VBS in 2014, looking at having it earlier this year.

We had a great time and are looking for a better and bigger VBS. Thanks to all who donated food and talents to our VBS

*Donna Touponce, Director of VBS.*

## **Godly Play and Program for Young Children**

Anne Skakel continues to lead our wonderful Godly Play program.

Kayla Dillon and Emma Skakel have just joined us to provide care and activities for small children. We'll hear more about this at the meeting.

## **Safe Church**

Being a safe environment for young people and adults alike is basic to who we are. Linda Day, our parish Safe Church Officer, oversees our commitment to being a Safe Church and our background check and training processes.

## **Worship Team**

The Worship Team continues to play an active, if somewhat behind-the-scenes, role in the life of St. Paul's Church. The group which is chaired by Fr. Tom, has also included Carla McCormick, Bill & Priscilla Cuene, Natalie Boyce, Kendra McLeod and Bill Gaulty.

The team considers issues relating to worship, and helps the Rector with planning and organization of worship services.

If you have an idea about our worship, please speak to one of the team members

## **Our New Website: [www.stpaulsstockbridge.org](http://www.stpaulsstockbridge.org)**

On September 1, 2013, we "went live" with our new website. Our Communications Committee, Carl Sprague, Bill Gaulty, John Davies and Fr. Tom, worked with our consultant, Jon Geldert to make it happen. It is our hope that parishioners will get in the habit of checking our website often to keep up with what is happening at St. Paul's. Our Weekly Updates and Newsletters are available there as well as recent sermons and information about special events. The website also provides an introduction to our history, architecture and art treasures. New parishioners and visitors can use the website to learn about the people of St. Paul's, our worship services and music, our programs for children and our outreach programs. As always, suggestions for additions or improvements are most welcome.

## **From the Rev. Dr. Jane Tillman, Transitional Deacon**

This has been a year of transition, formation, growth, and moving forward in the process of ordination to the priesthood. With the prayerful support of the Rev. Tom Damrosch and the vestry of St. Paul's I met with the Standing Committee of the Diocese and the Bishop and moved from being a postulant to being a candidate for Holy Orders in June 2013. In July I spent two weeks at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSPP) in the Anglican Immersion intensive study program. This was a wonderful experience for me. I studied with 27 other people who are in the process toward ordination. In the morning I took two classes in liturgics and in the afternoon I took a class in Anglican History. Worship was also central to the daily process of life at CDSPP.

I also continued to study for the General Ordination Examination. The GOE is offered once a year, the first week in January, and is required for ordination to the priesthood. On December 14, 2013 I was ordained at Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield, MA to the transitional diaconate. The service was lovely and I felt the support and participation of many from St. Paul's. Tom was the preacher, Cecilia Jones a lector, and Natalie Boyce a presenter. I am extremely grateful to all of the love and support from so many people, over a long number of years, as I take these steps.

As many of you know, In 2012 Bishop Scruton sent me to Grace Episcopal Church in Dalton, MA and to St. Helena's Chapel in Lenox, MA for ongoing field education and formation. I have been with both parishes for about 21 months and during this time under the watchful guidance of the Rev. Daina Salnitis I have been learning step-by-step about opening myself up to God's presence during weekly worship, preaching from a place that is grounded in holy scripture and the story of God among us, and learning about pastoral care.

In January 2014 I spent an amazingly cold and snowy week in Cambridge, MA at the Episcopal Divinity School taking the General Ordination Examination. While this was extremely rigorous and exhausting, I once again found myself to be the recipient of enormous hospitality—from strangers who became friends over the course of a long week. I feel blessed beyond measure to have spent a year at two Episcopal Seminaries, as a part of three local parishes, and among so many faithful people who so clearly understand the radical message of the Gospel to love and serve the Lord and make God's love known throughout the world. I continue to seek the prayers and support of the people of all three congregations as I move toward ordination to the priesthood.

Faithfully,

Jane

## Size of Vestry

The Vestry consists of the Rector, four officers elected annually, and additional members elected for staggered three year terms.

Presently, we have six members in the last category with two elected each year.

The annual meeting is being asked to permit any of these three year “classes” to be increased by one, to provide room to include newer members

The total membership of the Vestry would increase from ten members to eleven at this time.

## Nominations

### Officers

The Vestry has agreed that this is the appropriate time for Vaunie Grauly to move from Junior Warden to Senior Warden

To provide for a smooth transition, Carl Sprague has agreed to serve as Junior Warden while Kendra MacLeod is being prepared to take over that role at a future date. Kendra is now functioning as a “warden-in-training”, meeting monthly with Tom, Carl and Vaunie.

<b>Nominations</b>	<b>Vaunie Grauly</b>	<b>Senior Warden</b>
	<b>Carl Sprague</b>	<b>Junior Warden</b>
	<b>Jennifer Carmichael</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
	<b>Tracy Johnson</b>	<b>Clerk</b>

### Vestry Members

<b>Nominations</b>	<b>Class of 2017</b>	<b>Natalie Boyce</b> <b>Matt Fillio</b> <b>Linda Day</b>
Continuing	Class of 2016	Kendra MacLeod John Davies
	Class of 2015	Donna Touponce Bill Vogt

## Diocesan Convention Delegates

The Parish sends two delegates to Diocesan Convention each October, of whom one must be a Vestry member.

We need to elect two delegates and one alternate for each of these delegates.

# St. Paul's 2014 Ministry Teams

The Vestry has developed this overview as a plan for our parish efforts this year. This is a work in progress!  
Do you see a place where you can get involved?

## Mission and Outreach Area (Vaunie Grauly, Coordinator)

### New Member Ministry

Plan and train for effective welcoming of visitors

Plan for follow up and tracking

Convenors: Kendra MacLeod and Tom Damrosch

### Food Pantry

Maintain visibility of the program and encourage contributions

Encourage and coordinate volunteer participation

Convenors (?) Torey Winn, Peter Putnam, Bill Grauly

### Children's Center Board

Oversee effective operation

Keep Vestry and Parish informed

Ensure two-way communication for mutual mission support

Convenor: Lisa Kane. Vestry Liaison: Linda Day

### UTO

Publicize

Oversee ingatherings and transmittal

Linda Day

### Easter and Christmas offerings

Recommend recipients to Vestry

Convenor: Vaunie Grauly

### Deanery Hispanic Task Force

Study possibilities for regional ministry with Hispanic folks in our area

Representative: Peter Putnam

## Nurture/Inreach Area

(Tom Damrosch and Natalie Boyce, coordinators)

### Pastoral Care

Ensuring lay and clergy visiting, including Home Communion

Responding to special pastoral needs

Meals for special situations

Coordinator: Natalie Boyce

### Hospitality

Weekly refreshments (Coordinator: Carla McCormick)

Special Event coordination (Coordinators: Vaunie, Natalie et al.)

### Godly Play

Plan and provide for effective and safe education for children. Recruit and train.

Coordinator: Anne Skakel

### Confirmation / youth

Discover opportunities as they arise and propose programs

Coordinator: Tom Damrosch

### Adult Formation

Discover opportunities and plan programs

Coordinators: Tom Damrosch and Natalie Boyce

### Vacation Bible school

Plan and carry out annual VBS

Coordinator: DonnaTouponce

### Safe Church Officer

Implement safe Church Plan

Safe Church Officer: Linda day

### Worship Planning

Consult and advise Rector on liturgical ministries and activities

Sunday participants

Special Services

Altar Guild

Liturgical Music

Prayer Team

## **Mission Support Area**

(Carl Sprague and Kendra MacLeod, Coordinators)

### Finance Team

- Budget planning and oversight
- Draft budget for Vestry approval
- Conduct review in May and September
- Review annual audit report

Convenor: Kendra MacLeod

### Year-round Stewardship education

- Develop plan for year round stewardship awareness
- Plan and carry out annual giving campaign each fall
- Make parish aware of planned giving opportunities

Convenor: Bill Vogt

### Capital Campaign

- For support of buildings and endowment
- To be carried out in 2014

Convenor: Carl Sprague

### Fundraising events (Vestry as a whole)

### Communications/ Technology

- Newsletter (Bill Gaulty)
- Weekly email update and inserts (Tom Damrosch)
- Website (John Davies)
- Database (Tracy Johnson)

Convenor: John Davies

### Event coordination for outside groups

- Process to be developed (Carl, Tom...)

### Property

- Identify and address maintenance issues

Convenor: Rob Maloney

### Godly Gardeners

- Coordinate volunteer and professional care of gardens

Convenor: Jean Rousseau

### Archives and History

- Written, oral and physical documentation of our history

Convenor: Carl

### Memorial Wall and Garden

- Provide information, maintain documentation, arrange for care

Convenor: Jean Rousseau