

The Road to Damascus

April 2014



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 13,
8 & 10 a.m.

Maundy Thursday,
April 17: 7:30 p.m.
Service at First
Congregational Church,
Stockbridge.

Good Friday, April 18:
Noon, Service at St.
Paul's. 5:00 p.m. Stations
of the Cross at St. Paul's.

Easter Eve, April 19:
The Great Vigil of Easter
and First Eucharist of
Easter 7:30 p.m. at
Trinity Church, 88
Walker Street, Lenox.

Easter Day, April 20,
8 & 10 a.m. The
celebration of the Day of
Resurrection. Children
are invited to take home a
plant. The Great Fifty
Days of Easter begin.

Thomas Bray Beef & Beer Dinner



The annual Thomas Bray Beef and Beer Dinner drew a large crowd. Above, Chef Dennis Ryan sets the stage for Jennifer, Vaunie, Carla and Connor. Below (left) auctioneer Bill Grauly with helpers Carl and Gilbert Casey, prepare for another round. The auction raised about \$140.00. Dessert (below right) was a howl for Natalie, Carl and Tom!



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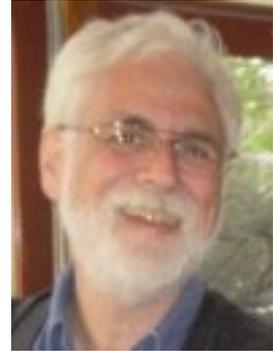
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From the Rector

Lent is a wonderful time to catch our breath.

Other seasons of the church year have been at least partially hijacked by the culture around us. But not Lent. There's just not the same chorus of competing voices around us saying "We can show you how to spend more money getting ready for Lent!" let alone "We can show you how to give up more things so that you and all the world can live more simply!"

So here are some of the ways some of us are using to make the most of Lent.



"Giving up something" for Lent is a wonderful spiritual discipline. What we give up should be something which we can have less of for a while without doing harm. Foregoing some mild luxury or non-essential thing item six days a week is a small but effective way of making us more aware of the abundance which God pours out upon us, just a little more aware of our opportunity to make positive choices.

Adding one intentional time for prayer is another gift we can give ourselves in Lent. The *Book of Common Prayer* gives a simple form of prayer for individuals and families for four specific times of day: one page each for the morning, midday, late afternoon and bedtime. Why not pick one of these times to pause briefly and be in conversation with God? Copies of a sheet with all four are available at Church. They can also be found on pages 137-140 of the Prayerbook and can be downloaded at www.justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/formatted_1979.htm (download the section beginning at page 137 in your preferred format).

Daily Scripture reading is another gift we can give ourselves in Lent. Various resources are available at Church. Prayer book readings for each week can be found

April 6-12 <http://satucket.com/lectionary/2lent5.htm>

April 13-19 <http://satucket.com/lectionary/2holylwk.htm>

In addition, Scripture tells us that God's first gift to us was the Sabbath. "On the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation." (Geneses 2:2). We've been meeting on Thursday evenings for a soup, bread and conversation about "Sabbath Time". Why are we always out of time? In a world that lives 24/7, what would it be like to go back to living 24/6? How can the idea and practice of Sabbath-ness find a place again our lives? How can serving God help save the planet?

Finally, we're meeting on Fridays in the Church at 8:30 a.m. for Intercessory Prayers and at 5:00 p.m. for Stations of the Cross

May we all have a blessed Lent.

Tom +

Words from the Senior Warden...

This year has started off with strong and active teams/committees: Altar Guild, Communications, Finance, Godly Gardeners, Godly Play, Mission and Outreach, and Worship. The Vestry meets monthly and is gearing up for transitioning to new clergy leadership once Tom retires.

Tom, Jackie, Carla and I attended Vestry and Wardens' Day at the Cathedral in March.

A new network has formed to explore ways we can envision ourselves as members of a broad church family and collaborate in our worship and activities. Representatives from St. Paul's, Grace Church and Christ Church Episcopal/Trinity Lutheran meet regularly.

Our children's programming continues to thrive with Godly Play for those ages 4 and up and Godly child care (with activities) for those under three.

News from committees:

Mission and Outreach reports that Food Pantry Sunday is getting to be a GOOD habit! Thanks so much for the donations of food, baby and pet products.

Cara Davis spoke to the committee about Construct, in Great Barrington, which helps folks with housing and employment needs. Their major fundraiser, Mayfest, May 5 (Cinco de Mayo) from 5:30 to 8 pm at Crissey Farm will feature food, drink and music from South of the Border. Call 528-1985 for information. St. Paul's has been a supporter of Construct for many years through donations and participation in the annual walk. Let's get a group together to walk this fall!

Lastly, it was great to have such a full church for Every Member Sunday. The committee welcomes new members

■ Vaunie Gaulty

Annual Meeting



It was a good group with plenty of participation and involvement. The annual meeting was, as always, an opportunity for all ages to experience fun and fellowship.

This kind of spirit is essential to our common ministry and community.

Every Member Sunday



Tom, Jane, Lila and Jean share a moment following the Every Member Sunday service.



Special Sunday or not, the Altar Guild is always hard at work. Jennifer, Carla and Donna keep things orderly.

Every Member Sunday was a big success with a great turnout, wonderful food, and terrific fellowship. We hope to have more days like this!

Thank You, Natalie

For a long time we've wished for a digital camera that will "live" at the church and be available to record parish events both great and small. Natalie Boyce recently donated a wonderful camera. The very first photo was of her, of course. Thanks, Natalie!



Visit the website often



It's your best source of up-to-date information on services, news and much more.

We're looking for contributing writers. If you're interested, please contact Bill Gaulty at bgraulty@yahoo.com.

<http://www.stpaulsstockbridge.org/>

Parish Profile



Following up on her interview with Florence Andrews, longtime member of St. Paul's Church, Vaunie Graulty went searching for one of the youngest members. Quinn Dillon (shown above in the pulpit) may not be the youngest, but he is the only one old enough to handle an interview, so Vaunie grabbed him after church and here's some of their talk:

How old are you?

Six years old and I'm in first grade.

Where do you live?

In a big yellow house on Long Pond Road.

What's your favorite room?

The one with the big brown couch.

What do you like about church?

I like coming. I like going to church.

What else?

(asks his Mom) I like going up to communion.

What do you do in Godly Play?

There's a story and then we make something.

What will you be doing when you are 15?

(Here Quinn looked up at his sister for inspiration, but nothing came to him.) Hmm, I don't really know, but I do know what I'll be doing when I'm 50.

What's that?

I'm not really sure.

Will you be coming to St. Paul's?

Next came a short conversation about St. Paul's being like a family and Quinn decided he would be coming to St. Paul's. He definitely like being part of the St. Paul's family!

Thank you Quinn for sharing your thoughts!

Parish Transitions



In December, long-time parishioner Jane Tillman was ordained as a Deacon. (That's Jane with, left to right, Carla McCormick, Bishop Doug Fisher, Cecilia Jones, and Fr. Tom) Soon, Jane will be ordained as an Episcopal Priest at St. Paul's.



Welcome to the Sirois family. With Fr. Tom: Michael, Kathryn, Tom, and Michelle



Easter Flowers

Please print this form and return it to St. Paul's Church or email the information to stpaulsstockbridge@gmail.com by Tuesday, April 15.

Your name _____

In memory of _____

In thanksgiving for _____

Your contribution _____

