

The Road to Damascus

June, 2014



Jane is Ordained

In a service that is exceedingly rare for St. Paul's, and one that was punctuated by solemnity, joy, moments of humor, and a few Carolina accents, our own Jane Tillman was ordained as a Priest on June 14. The service was led by Bishop Doug Fisher, assisted by numerous Berkshire clergy.



Photos courtesy of Vickie Ix, Diocese of Western Massachusetts

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Garden Party is a Huge Success

A grand association of St. Paul's parishioners, neighbors, and friends of the Children's Center enjoyed a garden party to celebrate our capital campaign. The recent mailing has raised \$50,000. With \$150,000 in prior gifts to the endowment and organ funds, we are at the halfway point to an overall goal of \$400,000.



Senior Warden Vaunie Gaulty and campaign chair Carl Sprague.

The campaign will raise funds for needed church repairs, organ restoration, and the St. Paul's Children's Center, our largest single community outreach program. Please see many more photos on page 2.

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More from the Garden Party



The Stockbridge Sinfonia Woodwind Quintet. Thanks to Ginger and Arthur Schwartz for hosting the party!



"Let me count the ways..." Carl makes the case for giving.



Eliza Keenan wows us with gymnastics. Later she played the flute. We have multi-talented young people! And thanks to Eliza's mom, Alison Larkin, for leading us in song. It was "louverly."



Lisa Kane, director of the Children's Center, appreciates the support.



The organizing committee: Kendra, Natalie (who also organized the reception following Jane's ordination), Lynda, John, Jennifer, Karen, Donna, and Carl.

Jane Tillman (continued)

Jane is a 19-year parishioner at St. Paul's. Her journey to the Priesthood has provided her with many experiences that will serve her well. Jane will continue her work at the Austin Riggs Center, and will serve parishes throughout the Berkshires as a supply priest, in addition to other duties.



The day after her ordination, Jane celebrated her first Eucharist. Here she is following that service with Fr. Tom, whom Jane credits with encouraging her to pursue ordination. We look forward to Jane coming back to St. Paul's often.

From the Senior Warden...

Updating you on the search for our next rector, committees (Profile, Search, and Transition) have formed and are moving forward with their work. Carl Sprague is chairing the Profile Committee and members are currently getting feedback on the following questions: What do you want to see in our next rector? What is your vision for St. Paul's Church? The Search Committee, chaired by Lila Berle and Robin Race will begin its work in the fall, as will the Transition Committee with Co-Chairs, Natalie Boyce and Jennifer Carmichael. If you would like to talk about any of this, please call me at 413 232 4694. I am personally so grateful to the MANY folks whose commitment to our church is propelling us through this process. You can be pleased with how well it is going. We are a wonderful community!

Creation Care

We were recently treated to an excellent [sermon](#) and after-church discussion by the Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, the Diocesan Missioner for Creation Care. Margaret is helping the diocese to develop and execute a strategic plan of action to care for the Lord's Creation. She also reports on climate action opportunities and builds ecumenical, interfaith and secular partnerships. Margaret is starting a new Creation Care group for the Diocese on Facebook.



Margaret chats with Lila and Kendra following a service at St. Paul's.

From the Rector

There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good (1 Corinthians 12:4-7).

One of the wonderful things about St. Paul's is the extraordinary variety of gifts which flourish among us. Some are in the garden during the week, serving God on their knees. Some serve God quietly on their knees at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The Altar Guild serves behind the scenes so that our beautiful church is ready when we come to worship.

Some are at the Food Pantry every month, serving their brothers and sisters. Others are praying, visiting the lonely. Next door in the Parish House, Lisa, Patty and Sandy are bringing joy and nurture to our enthusiastic pre-schoolers day by day, while our Godly Play and Child Care folks are making a difference to other children, and Donna and helpers do the same at Vacation Bible School. And many lives are being changed through AI-Anon week by week.

Behind the scenes are many folks. Through their commitment to mission and outreach, communications, pastoral care, hospitality, worship planning, care of buildings and finances and more the gifts of all are empowered.

At the heart of all this is the group of people who serve as the "Vestry", one of those curious words from our Anglican (Church of England) heritage. This is the group (Vestry members, Wardens and Rector) in whom responsibility for supporting our life together is "vested".

I have never known a Vestry with a broader array of gifts and talents. Every member has particular aptitudes, knowledge and passion for different areas of our life together. Some have been at St. Paul's for many decades. Others bring decades of experience from other churches, including the Church of the Good Shepherd. Natalie Boyce, Jennifer Carmichael, Linda Day, John Davies, Matt Fillio, Donna Touponce, and Bill Vogt are each extraordinary members of an extraordinary team.

And, finally, there are the Churchwardens. In the most carefully-thought-out transition of lay leadership I've ever seen, we are blessed with three Wardens this year. Vaunie Gaulty, our Senior Warden, has an outstanding depth of experience with the life of this parish. Her passion for its flourishing, and the well-being of each member, is beautifully complimented by her passion also for Mission and Outreach. Carl Sprague, has gracefully transitioned to Junior Warden. His generations-deep appreciation for the place of St. Paul's in our community has fired his passion for leading the Capital Campaign to undergird our future. And in untold ways, he continues to help to enhance our ability to be a key active, historic, open cornerstone of life here in Stockbridge. Kendra MacLeod serves this

year as “Warden in Training”. Her depth of church and business experience, energy and follow-through round out our leadership team in ways which Vaunie, Carl and I continue to discover with gratitude.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. (Ephesians 3:20, 21)



Warden in Training Kendra MacLeod with Senior Warden Vaunie Grauly



Junior Warden Carl Sprague happily at work

From the Stewardship Team

Here's a sobering thought: in the face of the stark reality of death, the truth is revealed--no amount of wealth or possessions can save you from your own finitude. You will die, and nothing on this earth can prevent death. Your possessions are temporal and are not of ultimate worth. They will not save you.

On one level, we all know our wealth won't save us. We tend to know this in our heads, but often our hearts don't believe it. We are anxious about money--anxious about our jobs, putting the kids through college, the market fluctuations of our 401(k)s, making the mortgage payments, fearful that our cars will die on us, worried our refrigerators will give out--all of which makes us nervous about money. But notice all these anxieties are focused on the self, and this myopic, internal focus becomes the basis of the fear in our hearts.

As Christians, we are called to shift our focus away from the small, egocentric self and outward into a radical trust in God.

When our focus moves outward in this way, we begin to view our wealth very differently. First, we realize that it isn't our wealth at all--it all belongs to God. Not only has our wealth come from God, even our own talents by which we are able to obtain our wealth are gifts from God. None of it belongs to us. It's all on loan.

We have temporary custody of our wealth. To put it rather vividly, we might ponder exactly how much Bill Gates or Warren Buffett will be worth when they die. The answer: the same as you. Death is the great equalizer, and when we die our net worth in dollars is zero.

The second thing we realize is predicated on the first: if all comes from God, then we have an obligation to God to use this wealth in right ways. This realization moves us from being consumers of resources to stewards of God's good gifts. We begin to ask different questions about the use of wealth. "Do I really need this? Or is it a want I can live without?" "Where can I best use this money for the benefit of others?" "How can my wealth be a blessing?"

It doesn't mean that our personal needs will be left out of the equation, but it does mean that we will balance personal needs with the needs of others, promoting healthy and holy relationships to bring glory to God.

Can our wealth and possessions help us live a relatively comfortable life? Of course they can. Can they make us confident that we are worthy of God's love and guarantee us right relationships with God and each other? Absolutely not!

Christ invites us into a life greater than our anxious fears over things that have no ultimate worth. He invites us into deeper relationship with God and with others, a treasure far greater and more enduring.

**Robbins-Zust Family Marionettes
Return to St. Paul's**



St. Paul's is delighted to welcome this wonderful troupe back for another season. Shows are at 11:00 and 2:00. Admission is \$5.00.

JULY:

- 7th Monday, Firebird
- 9th Wednesday, Three Little Pigs
- 11th Friday, Little Red Riding Hood
- 14th Monday, Jack and the Beanstalk
- 16th Wednesday, Firebird
- 18th Friday, Rumpelstiltskin
- 21st Monday, Three Little Pigs
- 23rd Wednesday, Peter and the Wolf
- 25th Friday Firebird
- 28th Monday, Rumpelstiltskin
- 30th Wednesday, Firebird

AUGUST:

- 1st Friday, Jack and the Beanstalk
- 4th Monday, Beauty and the Beast
- 6th Wednesday, Peter and the Wolf
- 8th Friday, Little Red Riding Hood
- 11th Monday, Sleeping Beauty
- 13th Wednesday, Firebird
- 15th Friday, Rumpelstiltskin
- 18th Monday, Carnival of the Animals
- 20th Wednesday, Three Little Pigs
- 22nd Friday, Beauty and the Beast
- 25th Monday, Little Red Riding Hood
- 27th Wednesday, Rumpelstiltskin
- 29th Friday, Firebird

Godly Play Celebrates Another Year

A lively circle of 6 made up our Godly Play this year. The stories flowed from the Old to New Testaments ending with Pentecost, always using the Montessori method of teaching with visual story telling materials. We constantly discuss the historical progression of religion, God's illusive presence, life of Jesus and learning to make our lives positive in society and within our families. I thank the children for their curious questions, intelligent answers, and beautiful faith that keeps their minds active.

- Anne Skakel



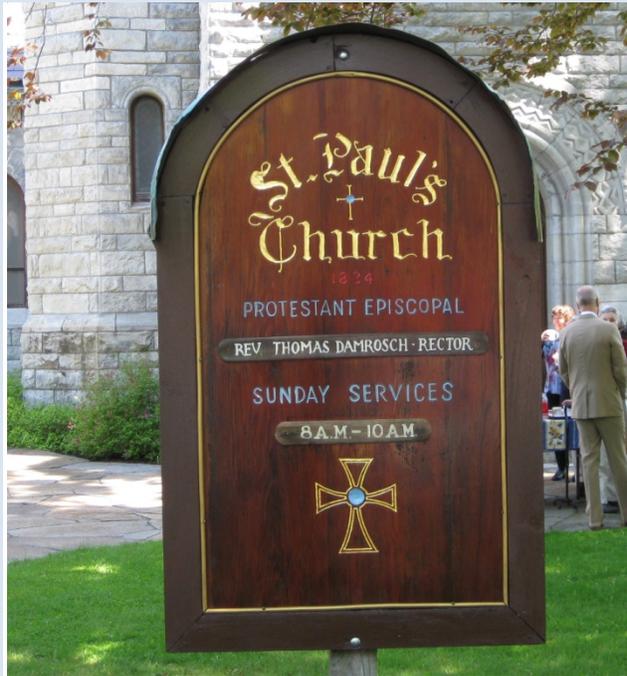
Anne and Vaunie with the children's banner.

Vacation Bible School begins July 21

For children 5 and up, this popular program runs Monday through Friday, July 21 – 25, from 9:00 to 11:30 am. The closing event will be the Sunday service on July 27. There is no charge. For more information, contact Donna Touponce at 413-717-5431 or dlittlebits@aol.com



Gilbert Casey entertains parishioners after church.



The church's lovely landmark sign has been given a long overdue facelift. Talented restoration specialist Peter Lilienthal - who is renting the rectory with his family during our transition - refurbished the sign with a new coat of marine varnish and 24 carat gold leaf.

Local artist John Kingston built the original sign when Tad Evans was rector. John taught ceramics at Simon's Rock for many years. He and his wife GeGe live in Alice's old restaurant near Housatonic. They're regulars at Stockbridge Congregational.

Replacing the old sign was discussed, but Peter has done such a nice job refinishing it that we may get a few decades more visibility from what we have, providing additional space for child care and special announcements still needs to be worked out.

Flowers!



Her name itself suggests flowers. Here's Flo with a lilac sprig from the Casey boys.



Quinn's Easter daffodils



He arrives by bicycle before the 8:00 service and provides us with never-ending floral gifts. Thanks, Carl!