

# The Road to Damascus

Fall, 2014



## Transition Update

This is a busy and exciting time for St. Paul's. We are fast approaching Tom's retirement, and the committees appointed by the Vestry – Profile, Search, and Transition – are hard at work. This is also the time for our annual Stewardship campaign, not to mention the Capital campaign.

We have updates on all of these, plus a look at the Food Pantry and other parish news:

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Welcome to St. Paul's, Lilliana

## Wet, Chilled, and for a Great Cause!



Verger Bill Gaulty takes the Ice Bucket Challenge from Gilbert, Carl and Connor Casey.

The Ice Bucket Challenge spread far and wide this summer – even to the front steps of St. Paul's. The Challenge involved dumping a bucket of ice water on someone's head to promote awareness of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and encourage donations to research. Our challenge was proposed by Carl, Gilbert, and Connor Casey, who targeted Bill Gaulty. It raised \$80 in honor of Paul Aiken, who is on our prayer list. The video is on <http://www.stpaulsstockbridge.org/>.

Natalie Boyce, who knows Paul well, writes: *Paul had been the executive director of the Author's Guild for 21 years. He lives in NYC with his wife and three teenage children. Since the diagnosis of ALS he's been confined to a wheelchair. His mind is as sharp as ever and his wit is unimpaired. He guided the Author's Guild with great skill, wisdom, and tact. Paul's kindness and intelligence are cherished by all who know him. Most of us think that Paul is one of the finest people on the planet. I know he'll be moved by our donation and would want me to thank all of you.*

## From the Rector:

We are truly having amazing Fall.

On October 19, we had Baptisms, always a high point in our life together. It was such a joy to welcome Christoph and Lilianna Newsome into the body of Christ, and to welcome them and their parents, Alicia and Skip. Skip was confirmed here at St. Paul's when he was younger and his family belonged to St. George's. Now they are a delightful and vibrant presence among us. If you haven't met them yet, please do!



Musically, the 19<sup>th</sup> was also a special treat. Nancy King, our splendid lead organist, joined John Davies, clarinet, and Gabe Kalcheim, violin, in deeply moving offerings which beautifully enriched our worship. The week before, the choir, with soloists Mary Harrison, Marthe Damrosch, Gabe Kalcheim and Carl Sprague, gave us Purcell's incomparable verse anthem, "Rejoice in the Lord Alway!" Their voices brought new depth to St. Paul's words, and the full chorus, led by Alison Larkin, made the rafters ring with joy. Now we look forward to working under Nancy's direction on Christmas Eve at 5:30 p.m. (again with special music including Theresa Mango at the harp) and our beloved Lessons and Carols at 10 a.m. on December 28<sup>th</sup>.

Please be sure to join us if at all possible on Sunday, November 2, when we celebrate the glorious feast of All Saints and commission our truly impressive Profile, Search and Transition Committees. Their enthusiasm for these critical tasks and the breadth of gifts which they bring to their work are deeply impressive.

For the past several weeks we have been "Walking the Way" of faithful stewardship as we prepare to make our commitments to support the mission and ministry of St. Paul's in 2015. It has also been very moving to hear the stewardship witness again this year of individual parishioners. You can catch up with the ones you missed on (and find so much more) on our website: [www.stpaulsstockbridge.org/calendar-news/walking-the-way](http://www.stpaulsstockbridge.org/calendar-news/walking-the-way). I look forward to our Commitment Sunday on November 11.

I give thanks constantly for the gifts that God has blessed us within you all, the community of faith and service which is St. Paul's.

Faithfully,

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

### Calendar:

- Nov. 1 Vestry meeting, 8:30, and Transition meeting, 9:30
- Nov. 2 One service at 9:00 with commissioning of transition committees followed by brunch
- Nov. 9 Stewardship Commitment Sunday
- Nov. 12 Mission and Outreach meeting, 5:00
- Nov. 27 Community Thanksgiving service at St. Joseph's, 10:30 a.m.
- Dec. 6 Cookie sale in connection with Main Street in Stockbridge event
- Dec. 9 Dinner and celebration of 25th anniversary of Tom's ordination

## **From the Senior Warden:**

It has been a wonderful experience to gather for worship, coffee, and conversation throughout this fall. For so many of us, Sundays are an anchor for the week – a time for friendship and reflection. Greeters and parishioners have welcomed many visitors, including some "new/old comers" such as the Newsome family. We are also happy that Libby and Jim Wade are now regulars at church.

I would like to thank Tom for so carefully compiling notes and keeping the Wardens and Vestry informed of the many details that need attention to help us with a smooth transition. This planning has given us the opportunity to get our house in order in various ways. We are looking at office procedures as we write a job description and seek a new part-time Office Manager. We are paying special attention to the website so it remains lively and up to date. We are strengthening the link to the Children's Center and its parent group. And of course, the Vestry is coordinating the formation and work of the Profile and Search committees.

With input from conversations with parishioners of all ages and the September 14 Parish sermon time when Pam Mott facilitated a discussion, the church profile is being crafted by Jorja and Carl's committee (see below). The Search committee will get together for an organizational meeting in early December and will meet every other week, starting in January until they make a recommendation to the Vestry. Please pray that these two committees will be guided by God's presence in their minds and hearts as they plan for the future of St. Paul's Church.

## **Profile Committee:**



In the last few months the Profile Committee has conducted a series of conversations, in groups and one-on-one. We've learned a lot about what's important to people at St. Paul's. The committee has been meeting weekly to put a draft document together. We're planning to submit proposed draft to the Vestry at their November 1 meeting. Once the Vestry approves the profile, we'll share it with the Parish. The goal is to have the Profile posted on the national website within the next month.

## **Capital Campaign:**

Our Capital fundraising for "St. Paul's Campaign for the Future" is moving along. We've taken in nearly \$80,000 since we kicked off at the beginning of the summer. This is on top of the \$100,000 gift to the Evans Fund for maintenance and the \$50,000 bequest to the Organ Fund. We're well on track to be able to take on the \$100,000 masonry and roof restoration project in 2015. This is the largest goal of the Campaign, so it's good to see this in sight.

After New Year we will be making application to the Stockbridge Community Preservation Commission to see if we can qualify for CPA historic preservation funding. We're also planning a wine-tasting benefit with St. Paul's Children's Center. Which sounds more fun to you?

Our new Church furnace is on order with Moran Mechanical. We're expecting installation in time for Christmas and this winter's heating season. Just retiring the gas bill for our old 1960s furnace will represent a capital contribution in itself.

## Stewardship Season is Well Under Way

For the second year in a row the stewardship team decided to use diocesan resources for a structured approach to our annual appeal for support. Under the banner "Walking the Way," we have offered weekly reflections and questions for thought in bulletins and e-mail updates, sermons addressing aspects of stewardship, and our own special contributions: short speeches at Sunday services by members of the congregation on what stewardship means to them. These heartfelt expressions of belief and practice, given by people we all know, are powerful and, we hope, persuasive, or at least thought-provoking. To date Bill Vogt, Natalie Boyce and Kendra MacLeod have spoken.

A mailing will include letters from our Rector Tom Damrosch and our Senior Warden Vaunie Grauly and a pledge card.

All this is pointing towards Commitment Sunday on Nov. 9 when we're asking that pledge cards be turned in. These pledge cards will be crucial inputs for the Vestry as it prepares the 2015 budget.

Please pray about what you can do in support of our mission and ministry through St. Paul's.

– Bill Vogt for the Stewardship Team

## Welcome Janet!



Janet Zimmerman was welcomed as the new Priest in Charge of Grace Church in Great Barrington on October 26. Here, Bishop Doug Fisher and area clergy welcome Janet (on Bishop Fisher's left).

## Bishop is Walking the Diocese

Bishop Doug Fisher is reviving an ancient Jewish/Christian tradition of pilgrimage – walking and praying and talking with other pilgrims on the way to a sacred place. "I think Western Massachusetts is a sacred place. So I have decided, with the enthusiastic support of my staff, to walk the diocese," he says.



It's called *Walking Together on Sacred Ground*. "The 'together' is anyone who wants to walk with me for any part of the journey," he adds. He wants to hear the stories of church members and those who have no church at all.

The Berkshires leg of the walk will be sometime in late May or early June. More details are found in the Bishop's blog: <http://blog.diocesewma.org/>.

## **Diocesan Convention 2014**

Here are just a few highlights from this year's Convention, held on October 25:

Lutheran Bishop James Hazelwood celebrated the Eucharist, assisted by the Rev. Jane Tillman and others.

"Walking Together on Sacred Ground." Bishop Doug Fisher laid out his plan to get out of his office and car and walk the Diocese. He'll be in the Berkshires next spring. Details are at <http://blog.diocesewma.org/2014/10/24/im-walking-the-diocese-join-me/>

Linda Day has been authorized to conduct Safe Church training at St. Paul's.

The Rev. Betsy Fisher invited parishes to put out a big plastic jug for the "Change the Baby" program to provide food and medicine for Babies Home we support in Ghana. This and other exciting outreach possibilities are being passed on to Mission and Outreach. \$102 from St. Paul's was contributed to the United Thank Offering. More boxes are available at church as we look toward the spring ingathering.

John Cheek from Great Barrington and others have prepared a very thoughtful self study document for healthy congregations. This is being passed on to our Wardens and Vestry.

The Rev. Hilary Bogart-Winkler is developing a Diocesan Youth Network to connect youth across the Diocese, even those in parishes which have only one or two high school aged youth. She's inviting each congregation in the diocese to send one youth to Diocesan Youth Council meeting at Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield, on Saturday November 15 from 10 - 3. Fr. Tom will help coordinate transportation for our area. In addition, youth can go to the "Winterlight 39" program at the Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina from December 26 through January 1 for only \$100. General information about Winterlight is at [www.kanuga.org/conference-calendar/conference-calendar-details/winterlight](http://www.kanuga.org/conference-calendar/conference-calendar-details/winterlight)

St. James, Greenfield, was honored for successfully introducing a Legacy Giving (planned giving) program during a transition of Rectors.

Five brand-new college graduates have begun full-year internships at all Saints church, South Hadley. One is doing Veterans work among participants (many of them homeless) at the Cathedral in the night programs in Pittsfield and Northampton.

- Linda Day and Tom Damrosch

## Community Outreach: Lee Food Pantry

One of the more significant and long-standing community outreach programs for St. Paul's is the Lee Food Pantry. The program is operated by Grace Church of Great Barrington, the First Congregational Church of Lee, St. Mary's Church of Lee, and St. Paul's. In addition, former members of the Church of the Good Shepherd continue to be active volunteers.

It's located in the Airlodi Building, 45 Railroad St. in Lee. Hours are 10 – noon on Saturdays. The mission is to provide emergency food assistance to individuals and families in need.

This vital program serves many of our neighbors in Stockbridge, West Stockbridge, Lee, and other nearby communities. In 2013 the Food Pantry collectively served 4116 adults and 1438 children – or well over 100 people per week.



Food is donated by area churches. St. Paul's holds its Food Pantry Sunday on the first Sunday of each month, although contributions are welcome at any time. Please drop donations of non-perishable foods like soup, canned vegetables, canned fruit, juice, pasta, tuna, and cereal at the back of the church. Also, financial contributions are much appreciated as they help to fill in the gaps in food collection.



Fresh fruits and vegetables are provided in season by Gideon's Garden, local farms, and "just plain folks" whose gardens have an extra bounty. We also receive bread from the Lee Big Y. Last January through April fresh produce was provided thanks to money raised by the St. Paul's Christmas Tree Project. We hope to continue this sharing project this year.

St. Paul's staffs the Pantry on the second Saturday of each month. While we have a core group of volunteers, more hands are always welcome. The Pantry opens at 10:00, so volunteers should plan to arrive at 9:30 to help set up. And, although the Pantry stays open until noon, the first half hour is the busiest and volunteers may not be needed after 10:30 or so.

To volunteer at the Pantry or work on donations, please see Bill Gaulty or Torey Winn. General information about the program is available at 413-266-1141.

## Meeting Another Very Real Need: Diapers

What do you know about diapers and their role in the lives of our low-income neighbors?

- Food stamps don't pay for diapers.
- A mother without diapers may find herself without childcare since daycare centers require mothers to provide them.
- Cloth diapers aren't an option for families without washing machines, as laundromats can't take them.
- Families with limited resources often stretch their diaper use, and infants stay in dirty diapers. This leads to diaper rashes, crying infants, and stressed mothers.

The **Berkshire Community Diaper Project** is a new collaboration between clinicians and local agencies to collect diapers and distribute them to families in our community. Organized by Marie Rudden, MD, a training analyst at the Berkshire Psychoanalytic Institute, and our own Jane Tillman, PhD, director of the Erikson Institute at the Austen Riggs Center, this project attempts to address infant physical and mental health problems through meeting this basic early need of families of young children.

Making diapers freely available is one of the most simple and cost-effective interventions available to improve the mental and physical health of children and to support stressed families.



It's only a small shelf now, but the Lee Food Pantry will be soon distributing more diapers.

You can help! Please contact the Christian Center in Pittsfield, (413) 443-2828, the Community Health Program in Great Barrington, (413) 528-1470, and the Lee Food Pantry, (413) 243-1033. Diapers can also be dropped off at St. Paul's.

## And Pets...

The Food Pantry also cares for pets, thanks to volunteers like Carla McCormick and Heather Drake of Irie's Pantry, which is presenting a special event soon:



# MUSIC FOR THE MUTTS

## MUSICAL VARIETY SHOW

*Hosted by*

*The White House Staff*

*Featuring*

*The Vandells*

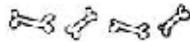
*The Spurs USA*

*The Zydeco Hillbillies*

*David Reed*

*Donald McGrony & Jeff Neumann*

*Jerry & the Hat Tricks*



**Saturday, November 1, 2014; 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

**Stockbridge Town Hall Auditorium**

**Adults: \$10; Children: one can of cat or dog food**

*All proceeds benefit Irie's Pet Food Pantry in Southern Berkshire County.*

*Irie's Pet Food Pantry is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization; your donation is tax deductible. Thank you!!*