

SAINT PAUL'S Epistle

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January 2010

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Looking Back Over a Year Gone Bye

The beginning of a new year brings us each the opportunity to look back over a year gone by and forward to one that has yet to unfold.

2009 was full, to be sure. Each of us has experienced both moments of joy and fulfillment, as well as times of sorrow and loss. For me, personally, 2009 ended with a barrage of strange and unfortunate mishaps. A bad case of mold broke out in our basement garage, a tree suddenly fell on our house, our well pipe broke and dropped 80 feet down the well shaft, and then, on one of the coldest days of the year, our furnace decided not to function. For my household, 2009 ends with a great sense of relief. And yet, when Debbie and I look over all of these unfortunate (and expensive) incidences, they only involved *stuff*—material *things* that could be repaired, replaced, or thrown out. Nothing of *real value* was at stake.

This was not true for others, especially those who did battle with illness, the unexpected loss of jobs, or the death of loved ones. For too many in our St. Paul's family, 2009 brought heavy life-challenges. And it is exactly during such times that we, as a family, found the strength to come together to do what we do best: lend support to one another—bearing one another's burdens.

2009 also brought to this congregation some real exciting spiritual movement and change. We began the year with a series of meetings and gatherings in order to discern the direction God would have us go as a congregation. With the hard work and dedication of so many, we have begun to put these goals into programmatic form. In the area of outreach and service—through our *Diakonia* Team and under the leadership and *enthusiasm* of Jim Newmark—we have become passionate about feeding the homeless through our participation at South Park Inn. In the area of Stewardship and under the leadership of Susan Beckwith and others, we have begun to seek ways to connect the full truth of Christian Stewardship to all areas of our lives. Starting in 2010 we will have a series of events that will draw out the implications of living as stewards (responsible caretakers) of God's many gifts of time, talent and treasure. In the area of Worship the *Kerygma* Team (lead

by Dick and Sue Agne) has looked at ways to enhance our worship experience and foster closer bonds of fellowship among our people. In 2010 will seek to find ways to enhance our worship experience and our living out God's love for us even more. And in the area of Christian Education our *Didache* Team (lead by Julie and Matt Perry and Missy Cheyney) has implemented ways to make our Sunday School more accessible to families with ever busy schedules. By holding Sunday School during our 10:30 worship time, we hope more families will be able both to participate in our Sunday School program *and* attend worship. Over the coming year we will look at ways to better equip our families with educational resources to enhance their faith life and practice in the home. Given the fact that our children are exposed to the church and its influence for an average of only one and a half hours per week (versus 20 hours of TV watching for the average child 2 to 11 years old) it is clear that our educational efforts must begin to focus on the home.

This is but a sampling of what we've done and what we hope to do. 2010 stands as a gift yet to be unwrapped. As we do, we hope, pray and trust that God will have many surprises (*good ones*, that is) for all of us. May God bless us in 2010!

Pastor Hugh Haffenreffer

67TH ANNUAL MEETING

St. Paul's Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place on **Sunday, January 31 following the 10:30AM service**. While only confirmed members of St. Paul's are authorized to vote at the meeting, ***all are welcome to attend***.

The Annual Report should be available the Sunday prior to the meeting. It is our hope that all who will attend the meeting will have previously read the various team reports. This will save us time so as not to have to re-read each team report and so that some real informed discussion of the issues may take place.

Please plan to attend. We have important decision to make and your participation is key.

*We mourn
with you*



James Anderson 12/19/09



New Fundraising Dinners

SOMETHING NEW IS COMING!

And we aren't sure what to call it

It is clear that in 2010 St. Paul's will be reaching out in new directions, especially in the area of service to those in need. In order to do this more effectively, it will be necessary to revitalize certain areas of our ministry *and* church building.

Over the coming year we will be holding a series of Fundraising Dinners, the purpose of which is to help defray the costs of our increased involvement in ministries such as South Park Inn, and the future creation of new programs to better serve our community. One area of our Church Building that needs much attention is our kitchen. While (thanks to the generosity of many) we have been fortunate to be able to replace our refrigerator and freezer with industrial grade models, it is clear that our stove and dishwasher are in need of serious repair or possible replacement. This is where all of you come in.

Our first Fundraiser Meal is scheduled for **Saturday, February 13 beginning at 5:30PM.**

Since it is the day before Valentines Day, the meal will reflect this theme.

So mark your calendars now. In the near future we will be able to give more detail as to the aim of these meals and the projects or ministries that will be the focus of the fundraising meal.

The cost of the meal will be \$10 per adult and \$5 per child (12 years or younger). Tickets will go on sale in the near future.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, please see Rick Seip or Jim Newmark.

*Thank
You*

A decorative flourish consisting of green holly leaves and three red berries, positioned at the bottom left of the 'Thank You' text.

THANK YOU FROM PASTOR HUGH

Dear people of St. Paul's, while it seems to be a long-standing custom of St. Paul's to give a monetary gift to your pastor at Christmas, it never fails to surprise and humble me to receive it. Your generosity leaves me speechless, but full of gratitude. And while this gift is very much appreciated by Debbie and me, it is only a small token of the gift that all of *you* have been for us over these past 11 plus years. Your love and faithfulness leaves me speechless and full of gratitude, too.

My wish and prayer for all of you in the new year is that it be a year of renewal: of faith and relationships. So, thank you for the gifts that you have showered upon me over these years—your love, dedication, and, yes, your financial and other generous gifts.

All my love to you,
Pastor Hugh and Debbie



WANTED ~ Holiday Decorations

Consider donating your gently used or new holiday decorations that you may no longer be using to the Thursday morning group. Contact Debbie Viola ~ 529-5051

SOUTH PARK INN

The next dates to serve meals to S.P.I. will be January 6th (Wednesday), January 21st, (Thursday). We meet at St. Paul's @ 4:15 PM. For information or to indicate your desire to participate, please contact Jim Newmark at (860)268-5070 or jnewmark@stpaulswethersfiled.org.

Can You Help?

A Simple Fund Raiser

Please donate your cans and bottles to St. Paul's. When the Youth was preparing to go to the National Youth Gathering, we raised over \$400 dollars by redeeming cans &



bottles. That more than covered one round trip ticket to New Orleans! We are now designating the money to the *Out Reach Fund* where we will be able to help support our Ministry to South Park Inn. We will use the money to purchase towels and bus tokens. There is a spot in the lower PE Building by the kitchen to leave clean cans and bottles. If it is easier, you may leave them by the coat rack on the first floor.

Thanks for your support.



After many conversations and receiving feed back, we have decided to try something new!! Beginning February 7, 2010 Sunday School will be held during the 10:30 AM

worship service instead of 9 AM. A mailing and follow up article in the newsletter will explain the details.

If you have any questions call Alice Ruppap, Debbie Viola, Matt or Julie Perry.

Thank you,
The Education Committee




BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY 2010

- 1 Alan Niederfringer
- 3 Rebecca Malinguaggio
- 3 Richard Kratzer
- 4 Emil Bengtson
- 4 Jane Matteson
- 6 David Bayek
- 8 Lorraine Cogswell
- 9 Kevin Kratzer
- 9 Beverly Liegey
- 11 Steven Bengtson
- 11 Sherwood Anderson
- 13 Emily Lourigan
- 14 Grace Durkin
- 15 Dan Gellner
- 15 Les Lourigan
- 16 Alan Niederfringer
- 22 Margaret Carlson
- 25 Steph Lohmann
- 25 Caleb Parchment
- 28 David Leibenguth

January 2010

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

									
3	Holy Comm. 8 AM Didache/Ed. Meeting 9AM Christmas Pageant 10:30 AM Christmas Caroling 2:45PM	4	5 Budget Meeting 7PM OA 7:30PM	6 Bible Study 10:30 AM South Park Inn 4:15 PM Youth EPIPHANY party 6PM AA 7 PM Choir rehearsal 7:30 PM	7 Thurs. Group 10AM	8 AA 10 AM	9 AA 7:30PM	1 New Years Day AA 10 AM	2 AA 7:30PM
10	Holy Comm. 8 AM Didache/Service meeting 9AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Kerygma meeting 12PM Stewardship Meeting 12PM	11	12 Worship & Music 7:30PM OA 7:30PM	13 NO BIBLE STUDY NO YOUTH MEETING AA 7 PM Choir rehearsal 7:30 PM	14 Thurs. Group 10AM	15 <u>*Epistle Deadline</u> AA 10 AM	16 AA 7:30PM		
PASTOR AWAY FOR STUDY BREAK									
17	Holy Comm. 8 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM	18	19 OA 7:30PM	20 Bible Study 10:30 AM Youth Group 6:30 PM AA 7 PM Choir rehearsal 7:30 PM	21 Men's Brkfst 7AM Thurs. Group 10AM South Park Inn 4:15 PM	22 AA 10 AM	23 AA 7:30PM		
24	Holy Comm. 8 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Outreach Fair Meeting after 10:30 service	25	26 Parish Admin. 6:30PM Council 7:30PM OA 7:30PM	27 Bible Study 10:30 AM Youth Group 6:30 PM AA 7 PM Choir rehearsal 7:30 PM	28 Thurs. Group 10AM	29 AA 10 AM	30 AA 7:30PM		
31	Holy Comm. 8 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM ANNUAL MEETING 12PM	<p>Don't forget: 68th Annual Meeting: January 31, 2010 after 10:30 AM service. Valentine's Day Fundraiser Dinner: Saturday, February 13 at 5:30 PM</p>							

ST. PAUL'S MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR January 2010

ACOLYTES:

Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094

- Jan 3 - Celia Cheyney
- 10 - Jared Christensen
- 17 - Cameron Cheyney
- 24 - Angela Mihalick
- *31 - Gretchen Schultz

ALTAR GUILD:

Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094

- Jan 3 - Anderson
- 10 - Ann French & Winnie Sawrun
- 17 - Elaine Strecker & Sue Sonstrom
- 24 - Carol Farley & Debbie Howe
- *31 - Mary Procyk & Cindy Seip

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

- Jan 3 - Jim Newmark - 8:00
- Patty Bengtson - 10:30
- 10 - Emily Lourigan - 8:00
- Mary Procyk - 10:30
- 17 - Art Bruce - 8:00
- William Fischer Jr. - 10:30
- 24 - Kathy Coyle - 10:30
- Jerry Vaillancourt
- *31 - Jim Newmark - 8:00
- Mike Coyle - 10:30

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Sue Agne, Coordinator, 563-0776

- Jan 3 - Lillian Doerschler
- 10 - Sue Agne
- 17 - Walter Rupp
- 24 - Joan Kratzer
- *31 - Carole Hughes

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:

Winnie Sawrun, Coordinator, 529-7588

- Jan 3 - Kathy & Mike Coyle
- 10 - Debbie & Amanda Viola
- 17 - Ellie & Charles Bengtson
- 24 - Carol & Art Bruce
- *31 - Lillian Doerschler & Winnie Sawrun

FINANCE:

Mary Procyk, Coordinator, 257-4793

- Jan 3 - Helen Peterson
- 10 - Lois Woy
- 17 - Betty Lamo
- 24 - Cindy Seip
- *31 - Bob Bowman

LECTORS:

Lillian Doerschler, Coordinator, 529-1939

- Jan 3 - Kyla Anderson
- 10 - George Howe
- 17 - Jeanette Serafine
- 24 - Lillian Doerschler
- *31 - Mary Procyk

NURSERY:

Ann French, Coordinator, 529-3245

- Jan 3 -
- 10 - AnnMarie & Katie Grottke
- 17 -
- 24 -
- *31 -

TAPING MINISTRY:

Coordinator,

Jan **Volunteer Needed**

USHERS:

Brian Beckwith, Coordinator, 8AM, 563-4066

Jan - Brian Beckwith

Louise Lostocco, Coordinator, 10:30AM, 529-3079

- Jan 3 -
- 10 -
- 17 -
- 24 -
- *31 -

****Annual Meeting***

SAINT
PAUL'S

Epistle

SAINT PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

371 Wolcott Hill Road

Wethersfield, CT 06109

www.stpaulswethersfield.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship at 8:00 and 10:30AM

SCS & Adult Ed. at 9:00AM

OFFICERS AND STAFF

Rev. Hugh R. B. Haffenreffer, PastorOffice: (860) 529-5397
Cell Phone: (860) 966-7360
pastorh@stpaulswethersfield.org
Office Manager.....Janet Vasel: *janet@stpaulswethersfield.org*
Council President.....Rick Seip: *rseip@stpaulswethersfield.org*
Council Vice President.....Jim Newmark: *jnewmark@stpaulswethersfield.org*
SecretaryBill Fischer: *bfischer@stpaulswethersfield.org*
TreasurerTom Grottke: *tgrottke@stpaulswethersfield.org*
Financial Sect'y/Bookkeeper.....Mary Procyk: *mprocyk@stpaulswethersfield.org*
Minister of MusicMelissa Cheyney
Superintendent of Sunday Church School.....Alice Rupp

REMINDERS:

1/31/2010 ~ Annual Meeting after 10:30 AM service

January 2010