

# SAINT PAUL'S EPISTLE



## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

371 Wolcott Hill Road,  
Wethersfield, CT 06109  
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(860) 529-5397

## MINISTRY LEADERSHIP & STAFF SUPPORT

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Mary Procyk  
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### MINISTER OF MUSIC

Melissa Cheyney

### SUPERINTENDENT OF SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

Cathy Evans

## A DREAM IN ANTICIPATION OF LENT

A few weeks ago, I went away to a friend's cottage to spend time alone—call it a “mini spiritual retreat.” My intent was to spend time reading, thinking and praying in order to prepare myself for the fast-approaching season of Lent.

On one of the two nights spent there, I had a dream. I don't normally remember my dreams; this one, however, was anything but normal. Usually my dreams are like an early-morning mist that quickly melts away upon the first light of day. So what I am remembering here is only that small portion that has remained with me.

In my dream I had the experience of being inundated with words and phrases, statements and assertions that came at me from all around. It was like driving through a night-time snowstorm where the snow flakes keep coming at you until they overwhelm your senses. It was as if pages from books, newspaper articles, and other written texts that I had read were flying all about me, rising up before me, one after the other, over and over again. I remember having the feeling that I was being assaulted by all the contradictory opinions and bogus truth-claims that saturates the world in which we live. This visual cacophony of conversation left me confused and dazed.

Then, rising up from all this confusion, like a beacon of clarity and simplicity, were quotes from the Bible: “God is love,” “Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus,” “God so loved the world that he gave his only son,” and so on. While I don't remember all of the texts precisely, I do remember the feeling that in the midst of all of the confusion “out there,” with all its contradictory assertions and promises, the Word of God, that you and I encounter in the Bible and in authentic Christian worship and community, is the only reliable ground upon which to build a life worth living. It was that simple.

Then I awoke. While most of the detail of the dream has faded, the truth of it remains. How fitting it is that this came as I was preparing for Lent.

Lent is a time to put “first things first”; to remember what is truly important and rebuild our lives there. The world is bent on selling us the latest lie as if it's some newly discovered key to unfettered happiness and bliss. But God's promise to us—that in Christ we are loved, forgiven, healed and sent out into the world to do the same—can cut through the clutter and set our hearts free. It is that simple.

*Pastor Hugh Haffenreffer*

## National Youth Gathering 2012

New Orleans, Louisiana  
"Citizens with the Saints"

*A chance to embody,  
create and proclaim peace.*

### What is Practice Peacemaking?

The mission of the ELCA Youth Gathering is to accompany young people in their faith journey to understand their vocation and articulate their faith in Jesus Christ. We will live that out in the program area called "Practice Peacemaking," one of three days at the ELCA Youth Gathering (Thursday, Friday, Saturday) to which congregational groups will be assigned. "Practice Peacemaking" will help young people become more conscious of their own call through focusing on how they can strive for justice and peace within themselves, their communities and the world.

"Practice Peacemaking" will turn the New Orleans Ernest M. Morial Convention Center into a space for Interactive Learning. In this space, participants will engage

in multi-sensory opportunities that will invite them to reflect on God's value for everyone, particularly those who are marginalized by society; discern how they can participate in the church's efforts to express this love and actually practice peacemaking.

**Practice Peacemaking Interactive Learning Activities** will include:

- A variety of interactive learning opportunities using several mediums such as art, music, technology, sports, community, fun and reflection.
- Worship as a gathered community that centers on the reconciling work of the cross of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Opportunities to stimulate ones desire to know more deeply the word of God — spoken (preached), written (Bible) and living (Jesus).
- Activities to engage youth in peacemaking within themselves, their community and the world.
- Exercises to better understand what peacemaking is and how it differs from mercy or merely being nice.



## CHURCH



## CHAPTERS

Our book club meeting for this month will be held on Tuesday, March 13th at Elaine Strecker's home – 218 Hang Dog Lane, Wethersfield. We will meet at 6:30 for dessert and to discuss the book, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lachs* by Rebecca Skloot. Copies of the book are available from Emily Lourigan if you do not yet have a copy. We have changed some of our previously selected titles to books that will be easier for us to obtain for our readers. In April, we will be reading *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* by Agatha Christie. In March, our book club members will be bringing along the title of a favorite book and we will use these suggestions to choose books for May and June.

We invite you to join us for our next meeting! All are welcome!! Please let Sue Agne know if you can come. (860-563-0776 or susana23@sbcglobal.net) We hope to see you on the 13th!!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## EASTER MEMORIAL GARDEN

The Easter Plants are \$12.50 each and are being provided by Kim's Flower Shop in Wethersfield.

Please have payment into the church office by March 25th and indicate if you would like to keep your plant or have it delivered to a church member in need of some cheer.



## ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

March 17, 2012 6 - 9 PM

### ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

"Corned Beef & Cabbage"

Salad	Carrots
Potatoes	Horseradish
Rye Bread	Dessert
Coffee, Tea, Punch	

\$15 Adult, \$5 Child  
\$35 Family (3 Children)

Contact Jim O'Newmark (860) 432-2060  
or Rick O'Seip (860) 258-0636



## SAVE THE DATE

### Outreach Fair, Saturday November 17th, 9 AM - 3 PM

Chairpersons are needed for the following booth: Crafts, Books/Grandma's Attic and Gift Baskets. If interested please see Bill Fischer, Jr. or Debbie Viola. Next fair meeting is Sunday April 29th after the late service. We will be taking suggestions on charities to benefit from the fair.



## SPOTLIGHT ON BRIAN BECKWITH

By Woody Anderson

Trouble has a way of getting Brian Beckwith's attention. As the unofficial caretaker of St. Paul's



Lutheran Church in Wethersfield, Beckwith is in charge of all building problems. And if it isn't one thing, it's two others.

Like the freezing night when the 50-year-old boiler shut down, tree-cleanup after a tornado tore through the area, fixing toilets with paper clips ("They rust quickly," he said), replacing ballast in fluorescent lights during a Bible camp class and fixing the outside drain which had caused flooding in the building. And much more.

Beckwith, 53, is handy alright. He's licensed to work on cranes, conveyor belts and installing freight lifts, a specialized profession which has taken him to Puerto Rico, Germany, Italy, Brazil and Canada.

Since joining St. Paul's nearly 20 years ago with his wife Susan, he's also become a spiritual rock. He was President of the Church Council for three years and is back on council for a few more years. He's omnipresent at the early service helping with offering and communion.

But his other church job as Mr. Fixit steals most of his time. Like when the lights went out in the front of the church. Beckwith discovered a meltdown in a sensor.

"It could have turned into a fire," he said.

There was more danger last winter when 3-feet of snow and ice covered the flat part of the church

roof. Beckwith found blueprints of the building and figured the weight put the roof "way over capacity," he said.

He got the word out. Council President Rick Seip and Melissa Cheyney called around and assembled a crew of church members to volunteer their services. Phil Baumgartel and his son brought in the large tow truck to get the snow machines on the roof.

"My concern was we could have gone down," Beckwith said.

Then there was the bacon fire the day before Easter this year. He was cooking bacon for the Easter breakfast when he got briefly distracted and suddenly smoke was streaming out of the ancient oven. When he opened the oven door flames shot up. William Fischer Sr., a retired fireman working in the kitchen, tossed the bacon into the sink but flames grew closer to the ceiling. Then Fischer put a fire extinguisher to work and within seconds the fire was out but the kitchen was plastered in white foam.

"Here is this building I love and I almost burned it down," Beckwith said.

After cleaning up the mess, Beckwith finished cooking the bacon. The Easter breakfast was a hit.

Beckwith had left another church because it never became a major part of his life. He was looking for something more. At St. Paul's, he heard sermons that encouraged discussion, discovered an upgrade in fellowship and friends whose grace have enriched his life. St. Paul's has become his second home.

"There are things I can do in return like take care of the building," he said.

Rumor has it that he's running out of supplies. He needs more paper clips.

## UNIQUE FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY COMING TO ST. PAUL'S

Great Lakes Scrip Funding is a unique and creative way for us to supplement our funding efforts at St. Paul's.

Here's the simple formula for Scrip Fundraising:

"Scrip fundraising lets your supporters use their personal household shopping to help your organization. Your member families simply buy gas, groceries, clothing, books, movies and restaurant meals, just like they do now. The only difference is they make these purchases with gift cards they purchase from your organization. The gift cards are from America's most trusted retailers, and they are the exact same gift cards that are sold in retail stores. . Every purchase made with a scrip gift card earns a rebate for your non-profit organization – anywhere from 2% to 15% or more, depending on the retailer."

"Families appreciate the "no-selling" nature of Scrip. They are not spending any additional money that they wouldn't already be spending on household purchases. They simply channel as many household purchases as possible through purchases of Scrip gift cards purchased from your non-profit organization."

Stay tuned for more info this Spring.



### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Eva Thurlwell
- 5 Jackie Fischer
- 7 Carol Bruce
- 14 Mary Procyk
- 17 Haley Evans
- 17 Elizabeth Evans
- 18 Jennie Dotts
- 21 Thomas Grottke
- 21 Carrie Lupoli

Oops! We missed one in January: Roxanne DeBlois turned 18 on January 18. Sorry, Roxanne.

If you know anyone else whom we've overlooked, please let us know!



### ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH: MOM2MOM SALE

Saturday, March 31, 2012 • 9 AM – 1 PM

(\$1.00 admission)

Preemie through children's size 14, maternity clothes, shoes, jackets, toys, books, games, videos, large items, strollers, high chairs and more! Refreshments!

To reserve a table to sell:

8' Table - \$20, Rack - \$5, Large Items - \$1/each

Contact: Cathy Evans (860) 478-6918 [cathyfevans@hotmail.com](mailto:cathyfevans@hotmail.com)



# St. Paul's MEMBERS IN SERVICE for MARCH 2012

## ACOLYTES:

**Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094**

- Mar 4 - Celia Cheyney
- 11 - Angela Mihalick
- 18 - Kaitlin Anderson
- 25 - Jared Christensen

## ALTAR GUILD:

**Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094**

- Mar. 4 - Linda & Kaitlin Anderson
- 11 - Mary Procyk
- 18 - Winnie Sawrun & Ann French
- 25 - Patty Bengtson

## ASSISTING MINISTERS:

- Mar. 4 - Emily Lourigan .....8:00
- Mary Procyk.....10:30
- 11 - Art Bruce.....8:00
- William Fischer, Jr. ....10:30
- 18 - Jim Newmark .....8:00
- Patty Bengtson .....10:30
- 25 - Art Bruce.....8:00
- Jerry Vaillancourt.....10:30

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

**Sue Agne, Coordinator, 563-0776**

- Mar. 4 - Sue Agne
- 11 - Walter Ruppard
- 18 - Curt Leonard
- 25 - Lillian Doerschler

## TAPING:

**Jan Pergande, Coordinator, 644-2888**

- Mar. -

## FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:

**Winnie Sawrun, Coordinator, 529-7588**

- Mar.4 - Jody & Pam DiNatalie
- 11 - Pat Granger & Alan Niederfringer
- 18 - Debbie & George Howe
- 25 - Amanda & Debbie Viola

## FINANCE:

**Mary Procyk, Coordinator, 257-4793**

- Mar. 4 - Dick Agne
- 11 - Bob Bowman
- 18 - Winnie Sawrun
- 25 - Helen Peterson

## LECTORS:

**Lillian Doerschler, Coordinator, 529-1939**

- Mar. 4 - Sue Agne
- 11 - Dave Bayek
- 18 - George Howe
- 25 - Louise Stoetznier

## USHERS:

**Brian Beckwith, Coordinator, 8AM, 563-4066**

- Mar. - Suzanne McDonald

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

- Mar. - Carol Farley & Jan Pergande



**Remember:**

*Daylight Savings Ends  
on Sunday March 11.*

**Just a  
Reminder...**      **"Spring Ahead"**

**Set your clocks ahead one hour before  
you go to bed on Saturday night!**

# MARCH 2012 | EVENT CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>Calendar Highlights:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New "Recovery" Bible Study: Thursdays at 10AM</li> <li>• Lenten Suppers: Wednesdays at 5:30 PM</li> <li>• Evening Prayer: Wednesdays at 7 PM</li> <li>• Lenten Program: Sundays at 12:15 PM</li> <li>• "March Madness" Youth Event: Emanuel, Htfd: Sunday, March 25 at 12:15 PM</li> <li>• Daylight Savings time ends March 11. Set your clocks <b>ahead</b> one hour!!!</li> </ul>						
<b>4 Second Sunday in Lent</b> Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30 AM Youth Meeting 9 AM Adult Forum 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Lenten Program: 12:15 PM	<b>5</b> Mom2Mom Meeting 7:00 PM	<b>6</b> Worship & Music 6:30 PM Outreach 6:30 PM OA 7:30 PM	<b>7</b> AA. 10 AM Lenten Bible Study 10 AM Lenten Supper 5:30 PM Confirmation 6 PM Lenten Ev. Prayer 7 PM AA 7 PM Choir Reh. 7:45 PM	<b>8</b> Thur. Grp 10 AM Rec. Bible Study 10 AM AA 8 PM	<b>9</b> AA 10 AM	<b>10</b> AA 7:30 PM Remember to set your clocks <b>ahead</b> one hour tonight!!
<b>11 Third Sunday in Lent</b> Daylight Savings Ends: Set clock ahead on hour! Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30 AM Youth Meeting 9 AM Adult Forum 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Lenten Program: 12:15 PM	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Church Chapter 6:30 PM OA 7:30 PM	<b>14</b> AA. 10 AM Lenten Bible Study 10 AM Lenten Supper 5:30 PM Confirmation 6 PM Lenten Ev. Prayer 7 PM AA 7 PM Choir Reh. 7:45 PM	<b>15</b> <b>Epistle Deadline</b> Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM Thur. Grp 10 AM Rec. Bible Study 10 AM AA 8 PM	<b>16</b> AA 10 AM	<b>17</b> St. Patrick's Day Party 5:00 PM AA 7:30 PM
<b>18 Fourth Sunday in Lent</b> Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30 AM Youth Meeting 9 AM Adult Forum 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Lenten Program: 12:15 PM	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> OA 7:30 PM	<b>21</b> AA. 10 AM Lenten Bible Study 10 AM Lenten Supper 5:30 PM Confirmation 6 PM Lenten Ev. Prayer 7 PM AA 7 PM Choir Reh. 7:45 PM	<b>22</b> Thur. Grp 10 AM Rec. Bible Study 10 AM AA 8 PM	<b>23</b> AA 10 AM	<b>24</b> AA 7:30 PM
<b>25 Fifth Sunday in Lent</b> Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30 AM Youth Meeting 9 AM Adult Forum 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Lenten Program: 12:15 PM Youth Even: Emanuel, Htfd. 12:15 PM	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Parish Admin. 6:30 PM Council 7:30 PM OA 7:30 PM	<b>28</b> AA. 10 AM Lenten Bible Study 10 AM Lenten Supper 5:30 PM Confirmation 6 PM Lenten Ev. Prayer 7 PM AA 7 PM Choir Reh. 7:45 PM	<b>29</b> Thur. Grp 10 AM Rec. Bible Study 10 AM AA 8 PM	<b>30</b> AA 10 AM	<b>31</b> AA 7:30 PM

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## March 2012

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