

SAINT PAUL'S EPISTLE



FREED IN CHRIST FOR LIFE St. Paul's Stewardship Campaign

With autumn upon us, we are approaching our Stewardship Sunday and the opportunity, once again, to recommit ourselves to the work of Christ in this place and time.

Stewardship Sunday is November 24. Within a few weeks, each of our households will receive a postcard that poses a question: To what or to whom do *you* say "yes"? By saying "yes" we are not talking about the normal "yes" and "no" of everyday conversation. Rather, the "yes" we are talking about is the "yes" that affirms at the deepest possible level our allegiance to and reliance upon some thing or some one. It's the kind of "yes" that actually makes a difference in our lives and the world around us.

We will be reminded frequently of the words of Clarence Stoughton (a Lutheran Educator in Stewardship) that "Stewardship is everything you do after you say 'yes' to Jesus Christ." This is the kind of "yes" we are talking about.

As we did last year, our theme during our Stewardship campaign is: FREED in Christ for Life! **FREED** is an acronym that stands for **F**ollow, **R**eality, **E**veryone, **E**nough and **D**ecide. Each Sunday (that began with the service on October 27) we will explore in some depth how the word of the week gives meaning and direction to our journey.

FOLLOW: On Reformation Sunday we are each called to Follow Jesus wherever He leads us. This takes an extraordinary faith and a knowledge of the kind of journey to which we are being called. This is not a journey where we get to "lord it over" others, where our chief concern is about ourselves and our own. Rather it is a journey of service to others. In his famous, *Letters and*

continued on next page

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

371 Wolcott Hill Road,
Wethersfield, CT 06109
www.stpaulswethersfield.org
(860) 529-5397

MINISTRY LEADERSHIP & STAFF SUPPORT

PASTOR

Rev. Hugh R. B. Haffenreffer
Office: (860) 529-5397
Cell Phone: (860) 966-7360
pastorh@stpaulswethersfield.org

OFFICE MANAGER

Karen Landry
karen@stpaulswethersfield.org

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Brian Beckwith
rbbeckwith55@gmail.com

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

Debbie Viola
debviola@stpaulswethersfield.org

COUNCIL SECRETARY

Debbie Howe

TREASURER

Roy Lewis
roy@roylewiscpa.com

FINANCIAL SECRETARY/

BOOKKEEPER

Mary Procyk
mprocyk@stpaulswethersfield.org

MINISTER OF MUSIC

Melissa Cheyney

SUPERINTENDENT OF SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

Cathy Evans

continued from previous page

Papers from Prison, German theologian and resistance pastor, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, wrote, "The church is the church only when it exists for others." And by "others" he was specifically referring to those most vulnerable in the world. Our Lord is leading us outside the walls of our church into the world. Our calling is to follow.

REALITY (as in, we need a *reality* check): We, in the church, are called to journey with Jesus with our eyes wide open. Yet, so often we seek a community that reinforces our dreams or illusions, one that allows us to dwell comfortably "just as we are." But Christ calls us to see the world as He sees it, to not flinch from its brokenness, nor turn away from the conditions of others. Our church is not to become a "safe haven" where we get to hide from the world as it truly is. It is, rather, an empowerment zone, a community where we get to stand in the love and grace of God, experiencing that love, grace and forgiveness together, so that we can step out into the world ready to bring about the change we are called to make. On All Saints' Sunday, we are reminded of another "Reality" into which we each have been baptized—a "Communion of Saints." This greater reality is that in Christ God has come to dwell with us and to our eyes to the miracle of life and grace that shimmers all around.

EVERYONE: On our third Sunday of our journey, we are reminded that we are the beneficiaries of the love and faith of countless "saints" who have gone before us. In the same way we are called to share this same gift of hope with EVERYONE—especially with those who suffer under the weight of life and its injustices. And it is when EVERYONE is invited to join in our resurrected life, where hope, life and love are allowed to push back the creep of hate, death and despair; like light shining in the darkness, we become a welcoming beacon to the lost and loveless.

ENOUGH: Despite all the voices to the contrary, there is ENOUGH. The experience of lack and want is not our

natural, God-intended state. It is nearly always a result of our hearts being in the wrong place and oriented to the wrong things. As children of an abundant and generous God, we have enough and more so. Inspired by the faithful obedience of a seemingly poor and powerless widow (and her mite), we will meditate upon the true nature of wealth and the power and joy found in grateful giving.

DECIDE: Life is defined by the choices we make or fail to make. Each moment of our lives is a gift, and with each gift comes a very tangible responsibility. What has been given is intended to be given away in a spirit of gratitude and generosity. One of our offertory prayers reads, "We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love." Often we are tempted to feel that God wants a token gesture from us, that it is sufficient to sit on the fence of life and toss our pocket change toward the offering plate. Being FREED in Christ for Life calls us to "go all in," to make a life-changing commitment, to jump into the depth of God's love and grace and there learn to swim.

On November 24, we will be given the opportunity to DECIDE. What kind of life do we want? What kind of faith community is God calling us to become? And what will it take to make that happen?

Please join us for this journey, and the journey yet to come!

Pr. Hugh Haffenreffer

NEWS & NOTES



Saturday, November 23, 2013

9 am – 3 pm

Just in time for your Thanksgiving and Christmas preparations!
Come visit our: Bakery, Café, Country Store, Holiday Booth, Handmade Crafts,
Grandma's Attic (gently used treasures, children's, women's and
men's clothing, and books)

All Proceeds will benefit St. Paul's Ministries
Tell your family and friends!



Volunteers are still needed!
Please contact Debbie Viola

WANTED: Items for Grandma's Attic.
As you do your fall cleaning please consider donating
your gently used treasures and clothing (for men,
women and children). No furniture or tools. Items can
be dropped off at church the week of November 17-22.

Any questions please contact Debbie Viola

Offerings[†] received through September 2013

Actual	Budget	Over/Under Budget	Annual Budget
96,025	116,019	-19,993.95	154,700

[†] Offerings include Weekly offerings, special offerings, loose plate, and Sunday School

etceteras...

WANTED

Old, used CDs or DVDs for a craft project. Please bring to Church and label "Thursday Morning Group."

§

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thanks to George and Debbie Howe for your generous donation of the new InkJet printer for the Church office! It works beautifully!

Thanks also to John Pytel for all the time he spent setting up our new Wifi system and for connecting the new printer. John has given numerous hours of his time helping us stay technologically up-to-date! Thanks, John!

§

ANOTHER WORD ABOUT THE STATE OF OUR OFFERINGS (THROUGH SEPTEMBER)

Once again, first the good news: We continue to be grateful to all who have made contributions in support of our ministries this year. Without your faithful giving, none of what we do would be possible.

The "less-than-good" news continued through the end of September: We still are running at a significant deficit. At the end of September—the last month for which we have complete information—we were behind in our anticipated giving by almost \$20,000. It's important to note that this was actually better than the previous month (by nearly \$1,000!). So thanks to all who have tried to make up some of this deficit.

Why so far behind? It's not clear. We know that approximately 1/2 of that amount (approximately \$10,000) is due to some of us being behind in our pledges. The other factor may be that we were overly optimistic when creating our budget for this year.

As we did last month, we need to remember two things: first, if any of us is behind in our giving due to unforeseen financial changes, it would be helpful to let Mary Procyk know. We have stressed for many years the importance of thinking about our giving in terms of a percentage. When our income dips, our dollar giving may, too. But if we think of our giving in terms of a percentage of our income, that percentage (a better indicator of our commitment than a particular dollar amount) can stay the same even though our dollar giving declines. Thus our faith response remains the same.

Secondly, it's not too late to catch up! Please give prayerful thought to doing so if at all possible.

With all of our help, we can end the year on a strong, faithful note!

§

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

I just wanted to express my gratitude for all of the cards, phone calls, e-mails and especially the prayers that I've gotten over the past couple of months. Although my outlook is very good, being hospitalized for 10 days and all the related activities can, as we all know, make for long days and nights. All of you really made a difference. Thanks again.

Dave Bayek

OUTREACH NEWS

Hawkwing's "We Are ONE" Campaign

The Outreach Committee will be making a contribution to the Hawkwing Fund in support of their current needs. According to Rochelle Ripley, founder of Hawkwing, the government sequester has cut 78.5% of the breakfast and lunch programs at Takini, the K - 12 school in Howes, South Dakota. As she explains, "Our children are going without food - most children go home to limited or no dinners. [According to the US Census,] this is the poorest place in America."



Rochelle is calling us, and anyone who want to help overcome this gross injustice, to "Step Up!"

Join our We Are ONE effort to help. Skip One soda, One dessert, One adult beverage (coffee for example) and donate the cost of that (or more if you can) to Hawkwing. 100% of the donations will go to food for the children. [The We Are ONE campaign] began on Columbus Day— when the holocaust of Native Peoples began—and will continue through Thanksgiving when the food will flow with your help.

Please give prayerful consideration to supporting this campaign by submitting a pledge through the weekly offering plate on Sunday November 10, 2013. Please mark your envelope and make checks payable to: "Hawkwing".

For more information, please contact Carol Farley, Russ Bengtson, or William Fischer, Jr.

*"Wopila Tanka" - Great Thanks,
In the risen Christ's peace,
The Outreach Committee*

CHURCH



CHAPTERS

Church Chapters will be meeting on Tuesday, November 12th at 6:30 at the home of Winnie Sawrun.

This month we are reading the book, *The Curse: Big Time Gambling's Seduction of a Small New England Town*, by Robert Steele. Books are available for check out at the Wethersfield Public Library.

Please return the book to the library as soon as you finish reading as there are limited copies available to share. Please join us on November 12th!

St. Paul's MEMBERS IN SERVICE for NOVEMBER 2013

ACOLYTES:

Nov 3 - Arden Adamo
10 - Evan Bernard
17 - Bryce Gentino
24 - Cameron Cheyney

ALTAR GUILD:

Debbie Howe, Coordinator, 860-529-8583

Nov 3 - Jennie Dotts & MaryAnn Mead
10 - Winnie Sawrun & Ann French
17 - Mary Procyk
24 - Debbie Howe

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

Nov 3 - Debbie Viola8:00 AM
Patty Bengtson.....10:30 AM
10 - Jim Newmark.....8:00 AM
Mary Procyk.....10:30 AM
17 - Art Bruce.....8:00 AM
Jerry Vaillancourt.....10:30 AM
24 - Debbie Viola8:00 AM
Kathy Coyle.....10:30 AM

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Sue Agne, Coordinator, 860-563-0776

Nov 3 - Walter Ruppap
10 - Lillian Doerschler
17 - Curt Leonard
24 - Dick Agne

TAPING:

Jan Pergande, Coordinator, 644-2888

Nov - Debbie Howe

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:

Winnie Sawrun, Coordinator, 860-529-7588

Nov 3 - LeAnn & Andrew Powers
10 - MaryAnn Mead
17 - Jodi & Pam DiNatalie
24 - Carol & Art Bruce

FINANCE:

Mary Procyk, Coordinator, 860-257-4793

Nov 3 - Dick Agne
10 - Helen Peterson
17 - Mike Coyle
24 - Heather Christensen

LECTORS:

Lillian Doerschler, Coordinator, 860-529-1939

Nov 3 - Lillian Doeschler
10 - Jeanette Serafine
17 - George Howe
24 - Carol Bruce

USHERS:

Brian Beckwith, Coordinator, 8:00AM, 860-563-4066

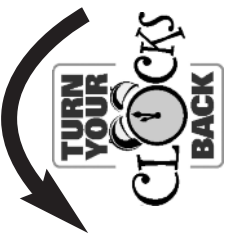
Nov - Brian Beckwith

Louise Lostocco, Coordinator, 10:30AM, 860-529-3079

Nov 3 - MaryAnn Mead & Mark Olson
10 - MaryAnn Mead & Mark Olson
17 - MaryAnn Mead & Walter Ruppap
24 - Art Bruce & George Howe

Remember: Eastern Standard Time begins Sunday, November 3rd. Set you clocks **back** one hour Saturday night!

NOVEMBER 2013 | EVENT CALENDAR

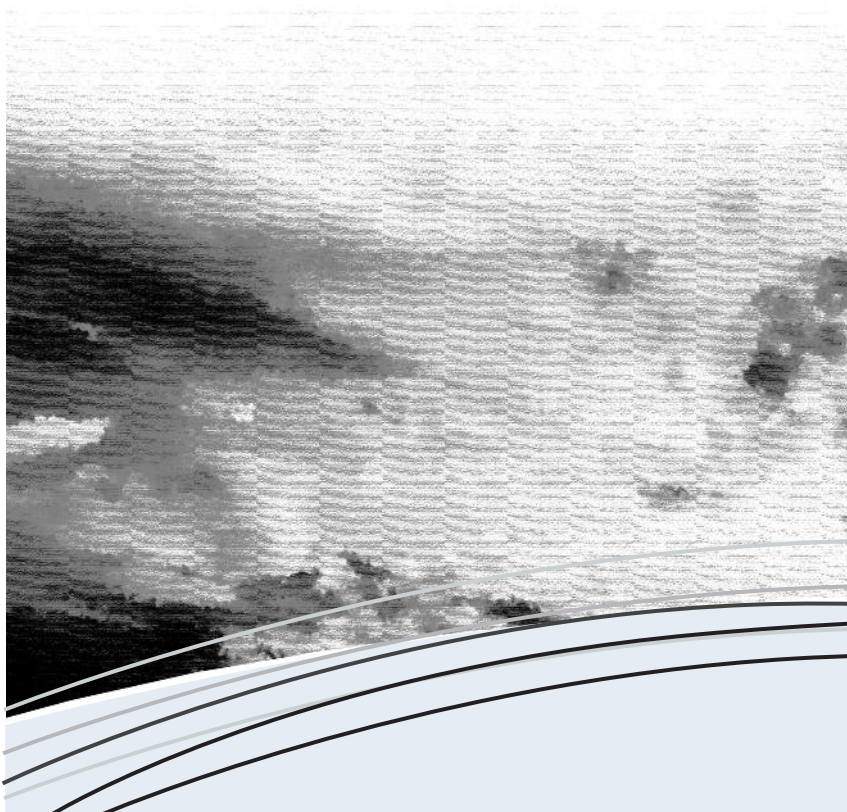
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p>Don't Forget: Eastern Standard Time begins Sunday, November 3. Turn your clocks back one hour when you go to bed Saturday night.</p>						
						
<p>3 All Saints Sunday <i>Family Sunday</i> Eastern Standard Time Begins Holy Comm. 8 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM</p>	<p>4 CA 7:30 PM</p>	<p>5 Outreach meeting 7 PM OA 7:30 PM</p>	<p>6 AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM</p>	<p>7 Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM</p>	<p>8 AA 10 AM</p>	<p>9 Russian School of Math 11AM AA 7:30 PM</p>
<p>10 25th Sun. After Pentecost Holy Comm. 8 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM</p>	<p>11 Veterans Day CA 7:30 PM</p>	<p>12 Church Chapters 6:30pm OA 7:30 PM <i>Epistle Deadline</i></p>	<p>13 AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM</p>	<p>14 Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM</p>	<p>15 AA 10 AM</p>	<p>16 Russian School of Math 11AM AA 7:30 PM</p>
<p>17 26th Sun. After Pentecost Holy Comm. 8 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM</p>	<p>18 CA 7:30 PM</p>	<p>19 Worship & Music 6:30 PM OA 7:30 PM</p>	<p>20 AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM</p>	<p>21 Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM</p>	<p>22 AA 10 AM</p>	<p>23 Holiday Fair 9-3 PM AA 7:30 PM</p>
<p>24 Christ The King Sunday <i>Commitment Sunday</i> Holy Comm. 8 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM</p>	<p>25 CA 7:30 PM</p>	<p>26 Parish Admin. 6:30 PM Ch. Council 7:30 PM OA 7:30 PM</p>	<p>27 AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM</p>	<p>28 Thanksgiving Day <i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>29 AA 10 AM</p>	<p>30 Russian School of Math 11AM AA 7:30 PM</p>

SAINT PAUL'S EPISTLE

Saint Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church
371 Wolcott Hill Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109
www.stpaulswethersfield.org

November 2013

Volume 71, Number 10



What's inside:

Pastor's Message: "Freed for Life in Christ"	pg 1-2
News & Notes Holiday Fair Our Offering thru September etceteras...	pg 3 pgs 4-5
Thank yous The state of our offerings Hawkwing "We are ONE" Church Chapters	
Members in Service	pg 6
November Calendar	pg 7