

January 2015

Volume 73, Number 1

# SAINT PAUL'S EPISTLE



## 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

Debbie Viola  
debviola@stpaulswethersfield.org

### COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

Russ Bengtson  
rbengt@sbcglobal.net

### COUNCIL SECRETARY

Deb 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

## PLANS FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING AND OUR FUTURE

By the end of the first week in January, each household will have received a letter from our Church Council outlining some significant challenges that we, as a congregation, will be facing in 2015. With that letter will be a draft copy of a proposed budget that has been recommended by our Council. It will be clear from both the letter and proposed budget, as well as the many important conversations that will take place throughout January, that we are being called by God to make some important decisions. The conclusions we come to over the course of January will shape not only how we will respond to our present challenges, they will also reflect our faithfulness to Jesus' calling.

St. Paul's 72nd Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 25. At that time the people of St. Paul's will be asked to formally commit to specific steps we will be taking starting in 2015 to address the challenges we face. All of our annual meetings have served to review the events of the past year, report on the present state of the congregation, and then look forward to a new year of ministry together. This year, however, the choices we make and the specific plans we adopt will have greater significance than ever before. Once again, we will combine our two services into 1 to take place at 9:30 am. As we have for the past 2 years, it is our hope to have this time of worship reflect the story of Christ's activity in and through this congregation. The stories of our year of faithfulness, that is reported on in our Annual Report, will be celebrated through worship, words, and song. The actual "voting" on any important matters will take place immediately following the worship service.

Again, this year we will hold a potluck celebration the evening before the Annual Meeting, on Saturday, January 24 from 5 to 8 pm. It is our hope that details of a proposed strategy for 2015 will be presented and celebrated. It is our hope, too, that our Celebration Potluck will reflect

*Continued on page 3*

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Sundays at 8 and 10:30 AM; Thursdays at 7 PM



## MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY

On January 11, 2015, Rochelle Ripley, founder of Hawkwing, will be here at St. Paul's Church to talk with us about how we, as a church family, can help the people of the Lakota Sioux Cheyenne River Reservation. She will join us for worship and after we will have a chili and cornbread luncheon where she will give a presentation about her people in South Dakota. You will be impressed by how her knowledge and love of these people has made, and continues to make, an enormous difference in their lives. She also will explain how we have an opportunity to join her and other devoted people on her annual trip out to South Dakota in June 2015.

Please set aside this date (January 11, 2015) to join us for lunch, and find out how you can help build up the lives of our brothers and sisters on the Cheyenne River Reservation.

## ADDRESS CHANGE

Bill Caughman is moving from Wethersfield to Rocky Hill.

His new address will be:

**Bill Caughman**  
**38 Rose Court**  
**Rocky Hill, CT 06067**

## FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS NEEDED

Every Sunday after the late service, the people of St. Paul's gather for conversation and coffee (and a tasty snack) during our Fellowship Hour. Unfortunately our team of "hosts" has dwindled over the years making it increasingly challenging to ensure that we have a Fellowship Hour each Sunday. Simply put, we need more Fellowship Volunteer hosts in order to continue the coffee hour on a weekly basis.

If you are willing to volunteer for our Fellowship Hour, or if you would like to know more about what it entails, please call Winnie Sawrun (860-529-7588) or speak to her on Sundays. You may also leave a message with Karen in the office and she will pass it on to Winnie.

If we are not able to get enough volunteers we will likely go to ONE Sunday coffee hour per month. It would be a disappointment to us all if this became necessary.

Many thanks to everyone who has helped out this past year. Your volunteer help is a gift to us all!

Continued from first page

our commitment doing things differently in the year to come.

With every challenge, no matter what it may be, comes opportunity. Every obstacle can be met either with fear or faithfulness. When we face our future with confident trust in the promises of God that have been fulfilled in Jesus, the most challenging obstacle itself will be found to provide a pathway forward. Ours is a God who makes possible what we deem impossible. While we will have many important choices to make at our Annual Meeting and beyond, the *most* important one, the one upon which all others will be made, will concern our response to Jesus. Will we respond with fear or faith? That choice is ours to make.

— Pastor Hugh

## CHURCH



## CHAPTERS

Join us for our first meeting of 2015! We are meeting on January 13 at 6:30 at Carol Bruce's home. We will discuss **My Beloved World** by **Sonia Sotomayor**. Books are available at the Wethersfield Public Library.

Upcoming titles include:

February – The Husband's Secret  
by Liane Moriarty (at the home of Sue Agne)  
March – Barbie and Ruth by Robin Gerber  
(at the home of Carole Hughes)

We hope you will consider joining our book club in this New Year! All are welcome! If you have any questions, please call Sue Agne (860-563-0776).



## MAJOR CHANGE IN FOOD PANTRY OPERATION

This year our food pantry served between 10 and 20 families each month. The cost to St. Paul's was minimal; a tribute to a combination of caring and hands-on involvement.

However, in order to keep our food pantry operating, we are going to have to completely change how we do business. Foodshare, the organization from which we purchase somewhat more than half of our food, is implementing a requirement that we, and all of their agencies, purchase at least **3000 lbs** from them starting in 2015. We have given out over 2000 lbs in past years but never **that** much. Also our thrift concept has been to keep costs down for us through available grants (hope to get more of these) and the overwhelming generosity of many of you through food donations. You always came through! That's not going to work anymore.

The only way we'll be able to continue is to buy 3000 lbs from Foodshare per year. The basic cost is 17 cents per pound. For those who want to continue to help, any monetary—rather than food contribution to our food pantry fund—would be the best way to meet this challenge.

We've helped a lot of people over the years out of our 5'x7' cabinet and hope to be able to continue.

Thanks again  
*The Outreach Team*

# *etcetera...*

## ANNUAL MEETING RELATED DATES AND TIMES MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

- **Friday, January 9:** All annual reports are due to the church office "Camera Ready," that is, ready to be printed without need for editing. It is preferred that these be submitted via email if possible to karen@stpaulswethersfield.org.
- **Sunday, January 11:** The financial report for 2014 and the 2015 budget will be available to the congregation. It is our hope that people will bring these home and look closely at them ready to ask any questions you might have the next Sunday.
- **Thursday, January 15,** the printed Annual Report will be collated and stapled.
- **Sunday, January 18:** Our Annual Reports will be available to every household. A forum to raise questions about the budget and to discuss our financial plans for 2015 and the resulting changes in our ministry will take place following the late service. **THIS WILL BE A VERY IMPORTANT MEETING. It will be essential that we are able to hear from as many individuals as possible.**
- **Saturday, January 24:** A Potluck Celebration will take place from 5 to 8 pm. Here we will have an opportunity to celebrate our life in Christ together and learn first hand about our ministry plan for 2015. **Again, THIS WILL BE A VERY IMPORTANT GATHERING.**
- **Sunday, January 25:** We will have one (1) service at 9:30 am. Voting on new council members (we will have 4 openings to fill), receiving reports, adopting the 2015 budget, and any other items that need a formal vote by the congregation, will take place immediately following the worship service. Actually, it will be the last things we do at the end of the worship service. (What can be better for the church than to make important decisions in the middle of worship?)



## ST. PAUL'S GIVING TREE

Our Giving Tree focus for the month of January will continue to be snow removal. With winter now upon us, this is one expense that we need to prepare for. It

really is difficult to judge how many dollars may be needed to cover the winter storms sure to arrive in the cold months of January, February and March. Please consider making a donation to help with the cost of this projected expense.

Giving Tree envelopes have been placed in the pews in church to make it easier to place in the offering plate during Sunday Worship.

As always, the Giving Tree remains in the Fellowship Hall with many leaves to choose that include other areas of our Ministry that will be a focus in the upcoming months. Any amount will be greatly appreciated! THANK YOU!!

If you have any questions, please call Sue Agne at 860-563-0776.

## THANK YOU

"Many hands make light work," one of our former members, Sally Ann Wolf, used to say. And there have been many busy hands over the past few months. For their hard work we wish to give thanks.

Thank you to:

- **Winnie Sawrun** and **Deb Howe** for providing the meal for the Greater Hartford Conference luncheon on December 3.
- **Bill Fischer, Jr.** for chairing the Holiday Fair and for all those who helped make it such a success: all who shared their time, talents and treasures. The Fair raised over \$5,000, not including an additional \$1,000 that came from Thrivent. Wow!
- The **Thursday Group** for putting up the Christmas tree in the sanctuary, and decorating it with our Chrismons (the hand-made Christian symbols adorning our tree). A special thanks to **Ann French** and **Debbie LePage** who repaired many of these Chrismons during this past year.
- All who helped with the Christmas Pageant! The children, Sunday School teachers, parent volunteers, and all who attended made it **the best pageant ever!**
- Thanks to **Steven Gagnon** for painting the two main bathrooms! Steve, who had a 28-year career as a carpenter, volunteered to do any needed work around St. Paul's. Thank you, Steve!
- **Noel and Chris Bengtson**. Noel helped his father, Russ clean the drains on the connector and PE bldg roofs. Chris installed the main water pump on the furnace that had failed. Thanks!! (And, thanks also to **Russ Bengtson** for both his ongoing oversight and care of our church facility. Thanks!!)

## DISCIPLESHIP

Those who follow Jesus' commandment entirely, who let Jesus' yoke rest on them without resistance, will find the burden they must bear to be light. In the gentle pressure of this yoke they will receive the strength to walk the right path without becoming weary... Where will the call to discipleship lead those who follow it? What decisions and painful separations will it entail? We must take this question to him who alone knows the answer. Only Jesus Christ, who bids us follow him, knows where the path will lead. But we know that it will be a path full of mercy beyond measure. Discipleship is joy.

(Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Discipleship*, 39-40.)

# St. Paul's MEMBERS IN SERVICE for January 2015

## ACOLYTES:

---

Jan 4 - Arden Adamo  
11 - Breen Bernard  
18 - Cameron Cheyney  
25 - Jared Christensen . . . . .9:30 AM

## ALTAR GUILD:

---

### **Debbie Howe, Coordinator, 860-529-8583**

Jan 4 - Winnie Sawrun & Ann French  
11 - Tracy Newmark & Deb Howe  
18 - Bob Bowman & Bill Fischer, Sr.  
25 - Patty Bengtson

## ASSISTING MINISTERS:

---

Jan 4 - Jim Newmark . . . . .8:00 AM  
Mary Procyk . . . . .10:30 AM  
11 - Debbie Viola . . . . .8:00 AM  
William Fischer, Jr. . . . .10:30 AM  
18 - Art Bruce . . . . .8:00 AM  
Jerry Vaillancourt . . . . .10:30 AM  
25 - Mary Procyk . . . . .9:30 AM

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

---

### **Sue Agne, Coordinator, 860-563-0776**

Jan 4 - Walter Ruppap  
11 - Sue Agne  
18 - Curt Leonard  
25 - Carole Hughes . . . . .9:30 AM

## TAPING:

---

### **Jan Pergande, Coordinator, 860-644-2888**

Jan - Deb Howe

## FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:

---

### **Winnie Sawrun, Coordinator, 860-529-7588**

Jan 4 - Lillian Doerschler & Winnie Sawrun  
11 - Patty & Russ Bengtson  
18 - Leann & Andy Power  
25 - Annual Meeting

## FINANCE:

---

### **Mary Procyk, Coordinator, 860-257-4793**

Jan 4 - Lillian Doerschler  
11 - Bob Bowman  
18 - Debbie Viola  
25 - George Howe

## READERS:

---

### **Lillian Doerschler, Coordinator, 860-529-1939**

Jan 4 - Sue Agne  
11 - Dave Bayek  
18 - George Howe  
25 - Lillian Doerschler . . . . .9:30 AM

## USHERS:

---

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

Jan - Brian Beckwith

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

Jan 4 - Bob Bowman & Bill Fischer, Sr  
11 - Bob Bowman & Bill Fischer, Sr  
18 - Bob Bowman & Dick Agne  
25 - Bob Bowman & Dick Agne . . . . .9:30 AM

## Reminder:

**Our Annual Meeting is January 25 at 9:30 AM  
No 8 am service on the 25th!**

# JANUARY 2015 | EVENT CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS FOR JANUARY:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hawkwing chili potluck: Sunday, January 11 at 12 noon.</li> <li>Church Chapters, Tuesday, January 13 at 6:30 PM.</li> <li>Conversation about 2015 ministry and budget, Sunday, Jan. 18 at 12 noon.</li> <li>Celebration Potluck, Saturday, January 24 at 5 PM.</li> <li>Celebration Service and Annual Mtg., Sunday, January 25 at 9:30 AM.</li> </ul>						
<b>4 Christmas 2</b> <i>Family Sunday</i> Holy Comm. 8 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Outreach Mtg. 12 NOON	<b>5</b> <b>6 Epiphany</b> Annual Mtg Planning 6:30 PM	<b>7</b> AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	<b>8</b> Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM	<b>9</b> AA 10:00 AM	<b>10</b> AA 7:30 PM	
<b>11 Baptism of Jesus</b> Holy Comm. 8 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Hawkwing Chili Potluck 12 PM	<b>12</b> Cub Scouts 6 PM	<b>13</b> Church Chapters Book Club 6:30 PM Worship & Music 7 PM	<b>14</b> AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	<b>15</b> Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM <i>Epistle Deadline</i>	<b>16</b> AA 10:00 AM	<b>17</b> AA 7:30 PM
<b>18 Epiphany 2</b> <i>Annual Report Available</i> Holy Comm. 8 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Conversation about the 2015 Budget and Ministry 12 NOON	<b>19 MLK Day</b>	<b>20</b> Parish Admin. 6:30 PM Ch. Council 7:30 PM	<b>21</b> AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	<b>22</b> Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM	<b>23</b> AA 10:00 AM	<b>24</b> AA 7:30 PM Celebration Potluck 5:00 PM
<b>25 Annual Meeting</b> Celebration Service 9:30 AM <i>Formal voting following            the service.            No Sunday School</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Ch. Council 6:30 PM	<b>28</b> AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	<b>29</b> Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM	<b>30</b> AA 10:00 AM	<b>31</b> AA 7:30 PM

# SAINT PAUL'S EPISTLE

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

## January 2015

Volume 73, Number 1



### What's inside:

<b>Pastor's Message:</b>	pg. 1
Plans for our Annual Meeting	
<b>News &amp; Notes</b>	pgs. 2-3
Mission Trip, Church Chapters, Food Pantry changes, and more...	
<b>etcetera...</b>	pgs. 4-5
Annual Meeting info, Giving Tree, Thank You's	
<b>Members in Service</b>	pg. 6
<b>January Calendar</b>	pg. 7