

# 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

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### OFFICE MANAGER

Karen Landry  
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### COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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### COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

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### COUNCIL SECRETARY

Sue Agne

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### FINANCIAL SECRETARY/

### BOOKKEEPER

Mary Procyk  
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### MINISTER OF MUSIC

Melissa Cheyney

### SUPERINTENDENT OF SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

Cathy Evans

## RENEWING OUR BAPTISMAL PROMISES

### *THE FIRST STEP TOWARD SPIRITUAL RENEWAL AND GROWTH*

On Sunday, January 25, all those who gathered for our annual Celebration Worship Service and Annual Meeting were given an opportunity to renew their baptismal promises. During the sacrament of Baptism, certain promises are made by those present. These baptismal promises are our response to the covenant God has made with us in our baptism. These promises define what it means to live into our baptism, or to "continue in the covenant" made by God in baptism.

When a person affirms their baptism (either at the time of their confirmation or when they become a formal member of a Lutheran congregation) they reaffirm these promises. They are:

- to live among God's faithful people;
- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper;
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed;
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus; and
- to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

We are all aware of the challenges that we face as a congregation. We are presently engaged in an important and very healthy conversation about the future of St. Paul's. Part of the conversation is about what kind of ministry can be financially afforded. This is an important conversation to have. But it is not the *most* important conversation to have. While budget cuts will buy us time, it must be time spent in engaging in the most important conversation to which we *are* called. The question that ought to be asked is "Where is Jesus leading us?" And the first step in discerning an answer to that question is found . . . in our baptismal promises. What does a faithful congregation, responding to Jesus' call to follow him (which is what discipleship is, after all) look like? The answer is found in the promises we have made to God and to this community, the promises made over us at our baptism and the ones we have reaffirmed when we were confirmed or later joined this congregation.

These promises reflect five essential elements of the church, each of which having ancient labels:

- *Koinonia*: Fellowship (or community) that is healing, nurturing, loving, welcoming and generous;

*Continued on page 3*

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

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

# NEWS & NOTES



## Mark Your Calendars HAWKWING MISSION TRIP MEETING

Plan to join us on Friday, March 6, from 5 to 9 pm for a movie and pizza. The movie is yet to be determined. No admission fee. Free will offering. Food and Refreshments will be provided. All funds raised will benefit the Mission Trip to South Dakota in June 2015.

## CHURCH

## CHAPTERS

Please join us for our February gathering! We are meeting on February 10th at 6:30 at Sue Agne's home. We will discuss *The Husband's Secret*, by Lianne Moriarity. Books are available at the Wethersfield Public Library, reserved under St. Paul's Book Club.

Upcoming titles include: March – *Barbie and Ruth*, by Robin Gerber (at the home of Carole Hughes)

All are welcome!

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



The Women of the ELCA (WELCA) Hartford/ Central and Eastern Conference is holding a planning meeting on February 21 at 10 am at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 465 Park Ave., Windsor, for the Spring Conference.

The Spring Gathering will take place May 2, 2015 at Christ the King, Windsor. If you are interested in attending or would like to help, please contact Winnie Sawrun at 860-529-7588.



## ST. PAUL'S GIVING TREE

Our Giving Tree has a different look this year! It is growing things other than

leaves-I am sure you noticed the January snowflakes! In February, the tree will grow hearts!! These tree "objects" will work the same way as in the past—each will have a need identified with a suggested amount that will go towards a need here at St. Paul's.

There will still be a monthly focus. Envelopes will be in the pews, or on the wall near the tree, for members to use to make their donations. Our goal is to try to have all the tree objects disappear each month. Please help us by taking one "leaf" a month and giving St. Paul's a boost. **OUR FOCUS FOR FEBRUARY IS UTILITIES**—an ongoing need, especially with these cold winter days!

Continued from page one

- *Leiturgia*: Worship that is vital, Christ-centered, relevant, inviting, empowering and connecting;
- *Kerygma*: A message (or “proclamation”) of God’s love in Jesus that is communicated boldly to all;
- *Diakonia*: Loving and tender care for those who are the most vulnerable among us and around us, in our communities;
- *Martyria*: A bold witness to the reality of God’s love and grace in Jesus that insists upon justice and peace.

In 2015 we will intentionally explore the foundation of our faith as expressed in these promises. We will do so in several important ways.

### **Three foundational emphases in ministry:**

Three areas of ministry will receive special focus in 2015. This is not to suggest that other areas will be neglected, rather that in order for us to begin to grow, we must choose where to begin. In each of these three areas we will develop at least one well-planned program or initiative over the next few months.

a) *Fellowship and Hospitality*: “From the parking lot to the coffee pot” we will explore ways to make St. Paul’s a more intentionally hospitable congregation. Here we will seek to find ways not only to be a more “welcoming” community, but a more “inviting” community, too. To reinvigorate the “invitational” part of our ministries, we will begin by developing an “Invite a Friend” Sunday to take place in mid-April.

b) *Communication*: St. Paul’s is a small congregation with a big heart that does a great deal to make this world a much better place. But . . . we are like a well-kept secret. In 2015 we are going to find new ways to let the secret out. In the 21st century, what are the best means to “shine the light of Christ?” We need to explore how we, with our size and unique resources might take advantage of the communication technologies that exist today.

c) *Care and Outreach*: St. Paul’s does a great job of taking care of its own. When a member goes through a difficult time in life, we are quick to surround that person with prayer, support, and a meal (or more). But can we be doing a better job? In 2015 we will explore better ways to discern the needs within our congregation and how best to extend care. Of vital importance to us is to identify those members who may have drifted away from St. Paul’s for various reasons and to be sure that no one “falls through the cracks” of our care.

But care (as well as fellowship) ought not to be limited to those who are presently part of this community. We are called by God to extend the love of Jesus to

those beyond our walls as well. In 2015 we will explore how we might extend our love and care to those who live in our community but who are often cut off from *real* community.

It is our hope that over the course of the next few months we will have teams who have gathered around these three areas of ministry and who will develop some exciting plans for building our future congregation together. If you have any interest in exploring one or more of these areas, please let us know by talking to a Council Member or the Pastor.

### **Lenten Journey 2015: Living into our Baptismal Covenant**

Ash Wednesday is February 18. With Ash Wednesday we will begin our 40-day (excluding Sundays) journey to Easter. Lent offers those who truly want to grow in their faith an opportunity to take concrete and disciplined steps toward this goal.

Our theme for Lent this year will be “Living into our Baptismal Covenant.” Each week, for 5 weeks, we will explore one of the 5 baptismal promises:

Week 1 (starting Feb. 22): Real Community

Week 2 (starting Mar. 1): Unceasing Worship

Week 3 (starting Mar. 8): Faithful Communication

Week 4 (starting Mar. 15): Loving Care

Week 5 (starting Mar. 22): Transforming Outreach

Beginning with the sermon for each Sunday, the theme for that week will be introduced. During the course of the week there will be 3 opportunities to participate in a deeper exploration of that week’s theme: Sundays from 12:15-1:45 PM, Wednesday mornings from 10-11:30 AM, and Thursday mornings from 10-11:30 AM. In addition to these times (lead by Pastor Hugh), it is our hope that other small group gatherings will take place at other times and locations throughout the week. A printed “curriculum” will be available with “how-to” instructions to make leading one of these other gatherings easy.

In addition to these gatherings, we will deepen our understanding of and commitment to living into our baptismal covenant with 2 other times for worship: Wednesday evenings (Evening Prayer), and Thursday evenings (Thursday Night Worship). (Thursday Night Worship will be less formal in structure.)

If you have any interest in participating in any of these opportunities, or if you would be willing to lead a small group gathering, please let Pastor Hugh know. Sign-up sheets and printed material will be available by Sunday, Feb. 15th.

# etcetera...

## SUNDAY SCHOOL IS LOOKING FOR A FEW VOLUNTEERS!

- We need a co-coordinator to help Wendy Weston with our Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.
- We need a coordinator for Vacation Bible Camp, June 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>.
- We need teachers for September.

Please contact Cathy Evans for more information.

## OUR NEW CLEANING SERVICE

We have a new cleaning company. It is the team of Alwyn Vassall and his wife, Ewa Kaczmarek.

Alwyn and Ewa are contracted to come to do a thorough cleaning on Saturdays and then to return either on Sunday afternoons, or Monday, to tidy up after Sunday (empty trash, do a quick clean where needed, etc.)

Please let a Council member know if there are any issues you see that need to be addressed or, even better, if you are *pleased* with their work.

## LOOKING FOR KNITTERS

The Thursday Morning Group is looking for knitters who would like to knit hats and scarfs for donations to the Seaman's Organization and Lakota Indian Reservation. Knitting needles and yarns available for use. Stop in on Thursdays 10 to 2 P.M. Or call Winnie Sawrun or Carole Hughes, and have a Beautiful Day! Winnie Sawrun can be reached at 860-529-7588, Carole Hughes at 860-529-8550

## SUNDAY SCHOOL BAKE SALE

**Sunday, February 8th**  
**Following 8:00 am and 10:30 am services**

Our Sunday School children will be selling yummy baked goods and candy just in time for your Valentine's Day celebrations. All proceeds will benefit Sunday School fund for supplies.

## CHANGES TO OUR COUNCIL

At our recent Annual Meeting we said "thank you" to four of our members who have served us well on our Congregation Council and who have chosen to take a break from it:

Brian Beckwith,  
Margaret DeBlois,  
Carol Farley, and  
Deb Howe.

While we will miss their leadership, we are also grateful that they will continue to support the mission of St. Paul's in other various and important ways.

Elected to council are four new members:  
Aileen Casey,  
Erica DeBlois,  
Jennifer Farley,  
and Stephanie Lohmann.

In addition, Russ Bengtson is beginning his 2nd 3-year term. (This is the most "youthful" Council on which I've ever served!)

May God bless us with a new commitment to follow wherever we are being called.

## THANK YOU FROM PENROSE AND SALLYANN WOLF

Dear St. Paul's Family,

We celebrated our 65th wedding anniversary on December 30th. We very much appreciate the many cards we received from many of you. MANY THANKS!

We do keep St. Paul's in prayer. It would be wonderful if the church membership would increase. This year, if each family would invite another family to be a part of St. Paul's, the numbers would increase. The slogan could be "EACH ONE WIN ONE".

Peace,  
Sallyann and Penrose Wolf

## THANK YOU FROM PASTOR HUGH AND DEBBIE

Dear St. Paul's Family,

With the publishing of the January *Epistle* prior to our having received a wonderful gift from all of you, it is only now that I am able to formally thank you for it.

Thank you for the very generous Christmas Gift!! More than the financial gift, it is your gift of love, given in so many ways, that we truly value.

Again, thank you.

All our love,

Pr. Hugh and Debbie

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

## ACOLYTES:

Feb 1 - Cameron Cheyney  
8 - Evan Bernard  
15 - Bryce Gentino  
**18 - Celia Cheyney .....Ash Wed 7 PM**  
22 - Jared Christensen

## FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:

**Winnie Sawrun, Coordinator, 860-529-7588**  
Feb 1 - Deb & George Howe  
8 - Stephanie Lohmann  
15 - Stephanie Lohmann  
22 - Heidi Boutin & Winnie Sawrun

## ALTAR GUILD:

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

Feb 1 - Tracy Newmark & Mary Procyk  
8 - Jennie Dotts & Deb Howe  
15 - Winnie Sawrun & Ann French  
**18 - Winnie Sawrun & Ann French †**  
22 - Tracy Newmark & Deb Howe

## FINANCE:

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

Feb 1 - Heather Christensen  
8 - Kathy DiMartino  
15 - Linda Johnston  
**18 - Linda Johnston .....Ash Wed 7:00 PM**  
22 - Mary Procyk

## ASSISTING MINISTERS

Feb 1 - Debbie Viola .....8:00 AM  
William Fischer, Jr. ....10:30 AM  
8 - Jim Newmark .....8:00 AM  
Patty Bengtson.....10:30 AM  
15 - Art Bruce.....8:00 AM  
William Fischer, Jr. ....10:30 AM  
**18 - William Fischer, Jr. ....Ash Wed 7:00 PM**  
22 - Debbie Viola .....8:00 AM  
Mary Procyk.....10:30 AM

## READERS:

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

Feb 1 - Bill Fischer, Jr.  
8 - Patty Bengtson  
15 - Winnie Sawrun  
**18 - Joan Kratzer .....Ash Wed 7:00 PM**  
22 - Carol Bruce

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

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

Feb 1 - Mary Procyk  
8 - Joan Kratzer  
15 - Patty Bengtson  
**18 - Joan Kratzer .....Ash Wed 7:00 PM**  
22 - Sue Agne

## USHERS:

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

Feb - Brian Beckwith

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

Feb 1 - Dick Agne & Walter Rupp  
8 - Curt Leonard & Walter Rupp  
15 - Curt Leonard & Walter Rupp  
**18 - Curt Leonard & Walter Rupp †**  
22 - Curt Leonard & Walter Rupp

† Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 PM

## TAPING:

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

Feb - George Howe

# FEBRUARY 2015 | EVENT CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> <i>Family Sunday</i> Holy Comm. 8 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Outreach Mtg. 12 NOON	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	<b>5</b> Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM	<b>6</b> AA 10:00 AM	<b>7</b> AA 7:30 PM
<b>8</b> <i>Epiphany 5</i> Holy Comm. 8 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM <b>Special Cong. Mtg to Adopt 2015 budget 12 noon.</b> Bake Sale after each Service	<b>9</b> Cub Scouts 6 PM	<b>10</b> Communication 6 PM Ch. Chapters 6:30 PM Worship & Music 7 PM	<b>11</b> AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	<b>12</b> Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM	<b>13</b> AA 10:00 AM	<b>14</b> <b>Valentine's Day</b> AA 7:30 PM
<b>15</b> <i>Transfiguration</i> Holy Comm. 8 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM <b>No Sunday School</b> Epistle Deadline	<b>16</b> <b>President's Day</b>	<b>17</b> Grateful Faithful 6:30 PM	<b>18 Ash Wed</b> AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Ash Wed. 7 PM Choir 8:00 PM	<b>19</b> Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM	<b>20</b> AA 10:00 AM	<b>21</b> WELCA Planning 10 AM AA 7:30 PM
<b>22</b> <b>1st Sun. in Lent</b> <b>Real Community</b> Holy Comm. 8 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Lenten Program 12:15 PM	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Parish Admin. 6:30 PM Ch. Council 7:30 PM	<b>25</b> AA 10 AM Lenten Prog. 10 AM Supper 5:30 PM AA 7 PM Ev. Prayer 7 PM Choir 7:45 PM	<b>26</b> Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM	<b>27</b> AA 10:00 AM	<b>28</b> AA 7:30 PM

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## February 2015

Volume 73, Number 2



### What's inside:

<b>Pastor's Message:</b>	pg. 1
Renewing Our Baptismal Promises	
<b>News &amp; Notes</b>	pgs. 2-3
Mission Trip, Church Chapters, WELCA, St. Paul's Giving Tree, and more.	
<b>etcetera...</b>	pgs. 4-5
Knitting, anyone?, New Cleaning Service, Sunday School Bake Sale, and more.	
<b>Members in Service</b>	pg. 6
<b>February Calendar</b>	pg. 7