

July-August 2015

Volume 73, Number 7

# 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

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### MINISTER OF MUSIC

Melissa Cheyney

### SUPERINTENDENT OF SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

Cathy Evans

## WHAT I LEARNED DURING VACATION BIBLE CAMP

*Yes, we **all** can learn something from VBC.*

This year's VBC theme was "Everest: Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power." Each day we learned another amazing truth about God:

First: God has the power to provide. In a world that is so fixated on the acquisition of wealth as one of the primary means to prove our value to the world (which tends to produce a few winners and a lot of losers) this foundational truth is the secret to understanding real wealth: It's not in how much you keep, but in how much you give away that the real richness of life is to be found. As Paul wrote to the Corinthians: "God will generously provide all you need." (2 Cor. 9:8) Kind of takes the worry away.

Secondly: God has the power to comfort. So often we think of comfort as a luxury that some enjoy and others only yearn for. But the comfort that God provides is experienced when, in the midst of life's troubles, we gain a glimmer of hope. The comfort that God provides often comes through the love of others. St. Paul tells us, "God comforts us in all our troubles **so that** we can comfort others." (2 Cor. 1:4, emphasis added.) Again, we receive in order to give away.

Thirdly: God has the power to heal. Psalm 147:3 reminds us that "God heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds." Healing can come in so many forms. And while we live in a world that seeks a cure for everything that ails us (even death!), the kind of healing that God offers is a restoration to *spiritual* wholeness even while we remain broken. Kind of a paradox: through God our own woundedness can become a source of healing for others.

And finally: God has the power to love us forever. Jesus told us that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. (John 3:15) The "forever" part of God's love puts things in perspective. While we so often obsess over the short-term and seek immediate gratification (thank you modern technology!), God's time-frame is eternal. So . . . what's the rush?

Want to learn more? Ask the children who attended VBC this year. They'll tell you to "HOLD ON!" To God's truth, that is.

*Pastor Hugh (still a work in progress)*

**SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE:**  
Sundays at 9AM • Thursdays at 7PM

# NEWS & NOTES

## ST. PAUL'S HOLIDAY FAIR

**Saturday, November 21 • 9PM-2PM**

Planning has already begun for this year's fair. New booths and exciting new ideas are being planned. Previous fairs have been filled with spirit, fellowship & friendship between congregants, fellow Christians, and those in our community, while raising awareness and support for charities and furthering ministries here at St. Paul's. Please keep the date open and consider being part of this year's fair. There are many opportunities to support the fair prior to, during, or afterwards. For more information please see or contact:

*Wm. Fischer, Jr.*

*Thank you,*

*The Holiday Fair Committee*

## TAKE A LOOK

**at the grounds around  
St. Paul's Church buildings!**

Notice the added floral colors changing through the spring and summer. Our appreciation goes to the Farley family for their donation of the flower bulbs that were planted, to Bob Bowman for the flower plants from his garden, and to "Anonymous" who, for several years, has given cash donations for plantings to add to the beauty of our yard. The Rose of Sharon bushes given by Ellie Bengtson and Linda Anderson, planted along the stockade fence, have grown very well by the parking lot these last few years. New this year is a Mandeville plant by the church entry. Thank you all for your gifts, a beautiful touch as we walk around the property.

## NEWS FROM SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

**Information sent from Christopher Roehrer**

*Director of Development and Communications*

*May 1, 2015:* The mission of Seafarers is to bring information to those of us who can make a difference in the lives of merchant seamen. By improving living conditions aboard ships that stop in our ports, and by befriending those workers who are away from their families for months at a time, we help improve their lives and general outlook. All is appreciated more than you know. There will be new opportunities for mission support in the near future.

We at St Paul's have donated handmade caps and scarves, collected nuts, candy and various reading materials for their Christmas gift bags. Thanks to all from St. Paul's who continue to help.

*— Winnie Sawrun*

## SAVE THE DATE FOR THE NEXT OUTREACH CONCERT!

Mark your calendars now for an exciting concert on Sunday, September 20, at 3:00, sponsored by the Outreach Committee.

This concert will feature an unprecedented number of area musicians, including talent from our own congregation. There will be a free-will offering which will be used to support St. Paul's ministries as well as charitable organizations in our community.

Come to the concert, listen to beautiful music, and support St. Paul's church and our neighbors!

# St. Paul's MEMBERS IN SERVICE for:

## July

### ACOLYTES:

July 5 - TBA  
12 - Jared Christensen  
19 - TBA  
26 - Evan Bernard

### ALTAR GUILD:

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

July 5 - Winnie Sawrun & Ann French  
12 - Deb Howe & Mary Ann Mead  
19 - Mary Procyk  
26 - Patty Bengtson

### ASSISTING MINISTERS:

July 5 - Jerry Vaillancourt  
12 - Debbie Viola  
19 - Jim Newmark  
26 - Art Bruce

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

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

July 5 - Lillian Doerschler  
12 - Patty Bengtson  
19 - Joan Kratzer  
26 - Walter Rupp

### TAPING MINISTRY:

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

July - No Taping

### FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:

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

July 5 - Mike & Kathy Coyle  
12 - Patty & Russ Bengtson  
19 - LeAnn & Andrew Power  
26 - Jackie Fischer & Carol Hopkins

### FINANCE:

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

July 5 - Lois Woy  
12 - Bob Bowman  
19 - Debbie Viola  
26 - George Howe

### READERS:

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

July 5 - Jerry Vaillancourt  
12 - Debbie Viola  
19 - Jim Newmark  
26 - Art Bruce

### USHERS:

**Louise Lostocco, Coordinator, 860-529-3079**

July - Carol Farley & Jan Pergande

## August

### ACOLYTES:

Aug. 2 - TBA  
9 - Celia Cheyney  
16 - Megan Creevy  
23 - Brayson Bernard  
30 - Colin Grottk

### ALTAR GUILD:

Aug. 2 - Jennie Dotts & Deb Howe  
9 - Bob Bowman & Bill Fischer, Jr.  
16 - Winnie Sawrun & Ann French  
23 - Deb Howe & Mary Ann Mead  
30 - Mary Procyk

### ASSISTING MINISTERS:

Aug. 2 - Patty Bengtson  
9 - Debbie Viola  
16 - Mike Coyle  
23 - Kathy Coyle  
30 - Jim Newmark

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Aug. 2 - Curt Leonard  
9 - Sue Agne  
16 - Carole Hughes  
23 - Mary Procyk  
30 - Joan Kratzer

### TAPING MINISTRY:

Aug. - No Taping

### FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:

Aug. 2 - Mary Procyk  
9 - Kathy & Mike Coyle  
16 - Debbie & George Howe  
23 - Stephanie Lohmann  
30 - Lillian Doerschler & Winnie Sawrun

### FINANCE:

Aug. 2 - Heather Christenson  
9 - Helen Peterson  
16 - Mike Coyle  
23 - Mary Procyk  
30 - Lillian Doerschler

### READERS:

Aug. 2 - Patty Bengtson  
9 - Debbie Viola  
16 - Mike Coyle  
23 - Kathy Coyle  
30 - Jim Newmark

### USHERS:

Aug. - Lillian Doerschler

# etcetera...

## ZACHARY'S TABLE

On June 16th, we hosted our second Community Meal that we call Zachary's Table. We served about 30 people. The crowd was made up of some new faces and our members as well. We were fortunate to have our new friend, Brother Bruce play piano for us after dinner. There seems to be some interest in continuing this with some vocal accompaniment as some people were singing along.

We are going to do more publicity in local papers which we hope will result in higher attendance in the future. There is always plenty of food - and we need you, our congregation, to

know that you are always welcome to share this meal with our new friends. Donations have been coming in that will allow this ministry to continue - it is beginning to take on a life of its own... which is what we hoped for. The dates for our next meals are: July 21st and August 18th. If possible, please consider joining us. All who attended will agree that Zachary's Table was a great experience. The Outreach Committee's next meeting will be held following church service on July 5th. We will be discussing future publicity and ways to grow this ministry. All are welcome to attend!

## THANKS FROM THE BENGTSON FAMILY

Thanks to the many people who helped with the luncheon following Charlie's memorial service on May 30. It reminded me of Jesus feeding the multitudes!

Throughout the past five years, our life has been a roller coaster ride as Charlie, Russ and our family dealt with his Parkinson's syndrome. Now that he is safely in God's arms, we are remembering the love and attention that we received from our St. Paul's family. We are so thankful for the many meals, flowers, cards, calls, visits, and most of all, the love and prayers that continually came our way.

So thanks to everyone! You helped to keep Charlie positive and hopeful. Gratitude has replaced mourning as we thank God for Charlie's new life in Heaven.

*With love,  
The Bengtson Family*

## THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

As many of you know, our food pantry operation has changed due to our primary supplier Foodshare's requirement that we purchase 3000 lbs from them annually.

When we learned about this new rule we had doubts that we'd be able to comply due to the increase in cost and amount of food to be purchased.

Now that the year is half over we can see that we're not likely to have a problem. Our request that money be given to the food pantry fund has resulted in your usual generosity. Also store gift cards and food donations, especially coffee, have been a big help. Our number of clients has been steady and because of you our shelves have been well stocked.

As always, you came through!

## CHURCH CHAPTERS



### ST. PAUL'S BOOK CLUB

All adults—male and female—are invited to join in the reading and discussion of books selected by the group that will meet six times in 2015-2016 in the homes of those members. Unless otherwise noted, we meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30. Books are available approximately one month before the meeting from the Wethersfield Public Library.

Location of the October meeting will be posted closer to the date.

#### Selections for this year are:

**October:** *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien

**November:** *The Chance* by Karen Kingsbury

**February:** *Proof of Heaven* by Dr. Eben Alexander

**March:** *Orphan Train* by Christine Baker Cline

**April:** *Sophie's Choice* by Wm. Styron

**May:** *The Man Called Ove* by F. Backman

### THANK YOU!

To My St. Paul's Family,

Thank you so very much for all your prayers, calls, cards, meals, flowers and visits during my recent surgery and recuperation. All were very much appreciated and helped to make the days at home much brighter!

Fondly,  
Sue Agne

## ST. PAUL'S GIVING TREE

**The sun is shining brightly on our Giving Tree for the months of July and August!**



For our summer months, there is no specific focus but donations are needed for many of our ministries. This includes summer Sunday coverage for both Pastor and Missy while they are away on vacation. Our utilities and office supplies are always in need of extra funds. By donating to these "as needed" categories, Mary Procyk is able to apply the money contributed to budget line items where it is needed the most.

Giving Tree envelopes have been placed in the pews in church to make it easier to place in the offering plate during Sunday Worship. Any amount will be greatly appreciated! THANK YOU!!

If you have any questions, please give Sue Agne a call (860-563-0776).

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Thank you to all our teachers, parents, grandparents, aunts & uncles and church members who supported our children this year! It certainly does take a village!

Congratulations to Brenda DeBlois, Marina Perry and Leah Weston on their promotion from Sunday School to Youth Group! Go and be great and we have no doubt you will! We will miss you in Sunday School but look forward to welcoming you back as helpers anytime!

We are looking forward to next year and seeking volunteers to co-teach Sunday School, co-coordinate with Cathy and coordinators for special events, no experience required. Please contact Cathy Evans, 860-478-6918, cathyfevans@hotmail.com for more information.

Sunday School resumes Sunday, September 13th!

# July 2015 | EVENT CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p><b>Tuesday, July 21: Zachary's Table Community Pasta Dinner, 5 PM</b>  <b>Monday, July 20 through Tuesday, August 11, Pastor Hugh on vacation. While away, Pastor Hawksley will provide any needed pastoral care. She may be reached at: 860-754-4371</b></p>						
<b>5</b> Summer Worship 9:00 AM Outreach 12 PM	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> AA 10 AM AA 7 PM	<b>9</b> Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM	<b>10</b> AA 10:00 AM	<b>11</b> Salem Church 9 AM - 5 PM AA 7:30 PM
<b>12</b> Summer Worship 9:00 AM Baptism of Charlie Girard Thompson	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> AA 10 AM AA 7 PM	<b>16</b> Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM	<b>17</b> AA 10:00 AM	<b>18</b> Salem Church 9 AM - 5 PM AA 7:30 PM
<b>19</b> Summer Worship 9:00 AM	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Zachary's Table Pasta Dinner 5 PM	<b>22</b> AA 10 AM AA 7 PM	<b>23</b> Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM	<b>24</b> AA 10:00 AM	<b>25</b> Salem Church 9 AM - 5 PM AA 7:30 PM
<p>Pastor Hugh on vacation July 20 through August 11</p>						
<b>26</b> Summer Worship 9:00 AM	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> AA 10 AM AA 7 PM	<b>30</b> Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM	<b>31</b> AA 10:00 AM	
<p>Pastor Hugh on vacation through August 11</p>						

# August 2015 | EVENT CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>Tuesday, August 18: Zachary's Table Community Pasta Dinner, 5 PM</b> <b>Monday, July 20 through Tuesday, August 11, Pastor Hugh on vacation. While away, Pastor Hawksley will provide any needed pastoral care. She may be reached at: 860-754-4371</b>						
<b>2</b> Summer Worship 9:00 AM Outreach 10:30 AM	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Solomon Welles AA 11:30 AM	<b>5</b> AA 10 AM AA 7 PM	<b>6</b> Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM	<b>7</b> AA 10:00 AM	<b>1</b> Salem Church 9 AM - 5 PM AA 7:30 PM Pastor Vac'n
Pastor Hugh on vacation through August 11						
<b>9</b> Summer Worship 9:00 AM	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Solomon Welles AA 11:30 AM	<b>12</b> AA 10 AM AA 7 PM	<b>13</b> Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM	<b>14</b> AA 10:00 AM	<b>15</b> Salem Church 9 AM - 5 PM AA 7:30 PM
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<b>16</b> Summer Worship 9:00 AM	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Solomon Welles AA 11:30 AM Zachary's Table Pasta Dinner 5 PM	<b>19</b> AA 10 AM AA 7 PM	<b>20</b> Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM	<b>21</b> AA 10:00 AM	<b>22</b> Salem Church 9 AM - 5 PM AA 7:30 PM
<b>23</b> Summer Worship 9:00 AM	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Solomon Welles AA 11:30 AM Parish Admin 6:30 PM Church Council 7:30 PM	<b>26</b> AA 10 AM AA 7 PM	<b>27</b> Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM	<b>28</b> AA 10:00 AM	<b>29</b> Salem Church 9 AM - 5 PM AA 7:30 PM
<b>30</b> Summer Worship 9:00 AM	<b>31</b>					

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