

St. Paul's



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
APRIL 2013

# The Messenger

## A Message from our Senior Warden:

**VOLUNTEERS???**VOLUNTEERS!!

Spring is here (almost?), summer is coming, and St. Paul's small groups are recruiting additional volunteers. Look at the list of specific groups in this Messenger and take the opportunities to join fellow parishioners. Why not!! For some groups, a real time commitment starts months from now when the program year starts in September. For others, such as the Altar Guild, the entire year is busy. Experience not needed!

As the discernment process continues for another several months, many parishioners have asked how they can help. The opportunities are here. We plan to have a new rector by about September. A wonderful part of our welcome will be an active parish for the new rector to join.

In peace,

*Terry*

Terry Leitzell  
Senior Warden

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The Bishop is coming!  
 On April 14th, Bishop Stephen Lane will be present to celebrate the Eucharist at two worship services--our 9:30 Family Worship upstairs in the new church school/choir space, and 10:30 in the main sanctuary. He'll be confirming teens and adults that day at the later service and will be present for a reception after 10:30 worship. Please join us for this very special day!

## Bishops are the Central Focus of the Episcopal Church in the U.S.

Bishop Steve Lane will be at St. Paul's on Sunday, April 14, to preach, confirm seven parishioners, and be the celebrant at the 9:30 Family Service and the 10:30 Rite II Eucharist. Bishop Steve gets to wear beautiful vestments, a remarkable hat, and carry a shepherd's crook--oh, and he gets his own chair, elevated at the back of the chancel. Pretty cool. Is he really that important to our parish and to the Episcopal Church USA?

Bishop Steve carries the authority of the church, is the chief pastor of the diocese, and is the church official who can confirm people in the Episcopal Church. His agreement is required to call a priest to be rector at any parish in his diocese. His authority is primary in his diocese, The Episcopal Diocese of Maine, which covers the entire state, has 63 parishes and other ministries, and over 10,000 members. The 109 dioceses in the Episcopal Church and their bishops are the focus of authority in the American church. The governance of the church appears hierarchical with a Presiding Bishop, a triennial General (national) Convention, and national committees. But the Presiding Bishop is an elected



The Rt. Rev. Stephen T. Lane  
IX Bishop of Maine

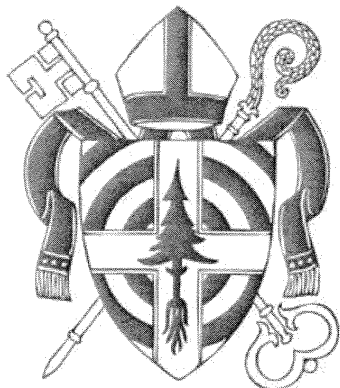
diocese has equal voice regardless of its number of parishes and members. Thus dioceses have the sole authority, through the General Convention, to set requirements for ordination, revise the prayer book, and amend the Canons of the church.

The source of the Bishop's authority rises from the "Apostolic Succession", the concept that Jesus's apostles were sent by him to spread the Gospel, and that they passed that authority to bishops in the early church. The Roman Cath-

olic Church expanded the hierarchy by adding cardinals and a pope to the bishops. In the early 16th Century, Henry VIII broke with Rome and the Catholic Church in the midst of, and because of, his six serial marriages. Henry, wielding power effectively, saw that bishops had significant authority and kept them in his new Anglican Church. He made them report to him and thus Queen Elizabeth is the head of the Church of England.

After the American Revolution, colonists broke with the Church of England and began to build their own church. Samuel Seabury of Connecticut was consecrated a bishop by the Scottish Episcopal Church on November 14, 1784, becoming the first Episcopal bishop in the United States. Three others were soon consecrated and they, in turn, ordained six priests in Middletown, CT on August 3, 1785. In 1789, the bishops and priests met in Philadelphia, drafted a constitution and revised the prayer book (to remove all

position and the national church is a voluntary association of the 109 equal dioceses. Each diocese sends four lay people and four clergy to General Convention so that each



# Bishops are the Central Focus of the Episcopal Church in the U.S.

references to the king of England!).

So Bishop Seabury and his colleagues became bishops and priests before establishing the Episcopal Church, recognizing that their authority came in an unbroken line from the Apostles.

So, back to the hat, the chair, and the shepherd's crook. The hat is called a miter, from the Greek for "turban", and has been worn by bishops for many centuries. Its shape represents the tongue of fire that descended on the Apostles at Pentecost. The crook is called a crozier and is symbolic of the pastoral nature of his office. The bishop's chair is in every parish and denotes that the bishop is always with us in spirit (it is not elevated because of the bishop, but because of the large electrical panel in the



St. Paul's bishop's chair.

basement). At St. Luke's in Portland, the chair is called the cathedra; hence the designation as a cathedral, the home church of the bishop. Why "Episcopal"? The word Episcopal means bishop.

*Terry Leitzell*

## The Vestry and Discernment

The Vestry is in the early stages of discernment in the search for a new Rector. We are grateful for all of the helpful comments and suggestions we have received from members of the Discernment Committee, and appreciate all of their hard work and dedication to this process.

The Vestry will soon be selecting a Search Chair from among its members, and expects to receive applications that have been screened by the Bishop's office in early May. We will move to review, selecting a shorter list, and interviews. We still are hopeful of having a new Rector around September 2013, and will keep you informed as we proceed.

*Pat Ryan, Junior Warden*

St Paul's hopes someone will come forward to be our representative to the local branch of **Habitat For Humanity**. Perhaps you've already done some volunteering with them, or maybe not.

Come forward, feel the call! This linking person will help us in our covenant with this wonderful and important group. Please contact Phil Studwell at 729-8259 or [studwp@gmail.com](mailto:studwp@gmail.com) if you are interested.

## Exploring the Word of the Lord

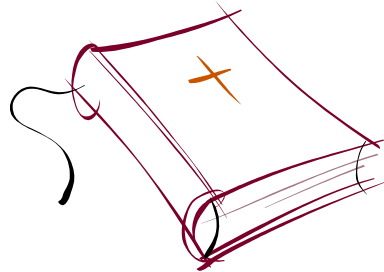
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It is with great excitement that you are invited to participate in a new Bible study, Exploring the Word of the Lord. With the title taken from the words of proclamation made by the lectors every Sunday, Exploring the Word of the Lord will meet on Sundays, 9:30-10:15, in the Library, beginning Sunday, April 21. It will focus primarily on the Gospel of the day, but, as the name of the group implies, we have the freedom to sometimes explore the Old Testament and the Epistle readings.

Exploring the Word of the Lord is designed as a drop-in group; no long-term commitment is required. No experience with the Bible is necessary, and the readings will be provided—you only have to bring yourself and arrive at 9:30. Everyone is invited. The group will be enriched by your presence, and hopefully you will leave with a fuller understanding of the text because the thoughts of many will expand your insight.

The emphasis will be on participation, although quiet listening to the conversation that develops is welcomed as well. The meeting time is

designed to make it easy for those who attend the 8:00 service to enjoy a half hour of fellowship during coffee hour in the Great Hall and then join the group for a 45-minute sharing and discussion, and to accommodate those from the 10:30 service who might be willing to come to church a little early.



Sermons are generally based on the Gospel, but they usually focus on one aspect of the reading. Exploring the Word of the Lord has the luxury of looking at multi-levels of meaning, which hopefully will

deepen our understanding of the Gospel text. If every once in a while we look at the Old Testament or Epistle readings, that will be new territory since those are only read and not elucidated in the services.

Pam Nugent will be the facilitator of the group. If you have any questions at all, please contact her at 207-737-2369 or [momper-son458@roadrunner.com](mailto:momper-son458@roadrunner.com). We extend to everyone a warm invitation and welcome. Join us for one Sunday, and see whether the group enriches your Sunday experience.

## Students Speak II

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What do today's young people think about the challenges facing our environment? The Earth Care Commission, to protect and preserve God's creation, invites one and all to Students Speak II on Thursday, April 25 from 7 to 8:30 in the Morrell Room of the Curtis Memorial Library on Pleasant Street right next to St. Paul's. This program is co-sponsored by our earth care commission and the earth care commissions of First Parish and the Unitarian Universalist churches as well as Bowdoin College. A panel of nine students, three each from Brunswick, Mt. Ararat,

and Morse High Schools, will field general questions concerning the environment. A Bowdoin student will serve as moderator. The faculty advisors of all four schools will be in attendance, too. There will be an opportunity for additional questions from the audience at the end of the program. Look for posters in all three towns designed by students at the respective schools. We encourage you to join us for what will surely be an interesting evening. For more information you may call 729-8515.



## Earthcare Commission, *Christians and Creation*

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Most of us believe that humans have a sacred duty to protect and preserve the environment. Unfortunately we are frequently misdirected by politics and profit margins. I believe that Christians also have a responsibility, in addition to our duty as humans, to protect the environment. Fortunately, as Christians, we don't have to get involved in politics or profit margins because our duty is a result of our spiritual relationship with God and what God desires of us. Certain fundamentals of Christianity support this conclusion.



### Care for those who need help.

Christ's ministry focused on caring for those in need; the poor, the sick, the homeless, the outcasts. He encouraged his disciples to do the same. There are plenty of poor, hungry, homeless and sick around us who need help today, and we must help. However, we also realize that there will be even greater numbers of needy in the future unless we do something to deal with the causes of poverty.

A friend told a story at a recent meeting about a dog who had fallen into a raging river that flowed through a village. The villagers pulled the poor dog out of the water. A short time later another dog came down the river and villagers pulled him out. And then another, and another. Finally one of the villagers suggested that a couple of them go up stream and find out how all these dogs were getting in the water. It seems so simple.

The storms, floods, rising sea water and droughts brought about by climate change will be one of the greatest future causes of hunger, poverty and homelessness. The storm Sandy created more hungry and homeless than any of us can help in a lifetime. Some portion of our

efforts as Christians must be directed toward preventing future homelessness and hunger. The best way to do that is to do what we can to stop climate change. It seems so simple.

God loves Creation. Natural beauty surrounds us. The Earth and its beauty inspires our poetry and our songs. It refreshes us when we are weary. Beauty heals our souls.

I personally like to think about the environment as "creation." That emphasis helps me focus on the special relationship between God and creation and humans and creation. The Christian creation story emphasizes that relationship. It tells us that God loved his creation. He made the mountains, looked at them and said, "that's good." He made the oceans and the rivers and the lakes, looked at them and said, "that's good." He made the animals, the birds, fish and insects and even humans, and when he finished, he looked at all that he had made and said, "Wow, That is very good." God is proud of Creation. Maybe this story tells us why humans are thrilled with the natural beauty that surrounds us. The God that is in each of us reacts to creation--"wow, that's good."

God's creation was perfect. God's creation provided everything that any part of his creation needed to thrive. God, through his creation, recreates us with each breath we breathe and with each sip of water and each morsel of bread we consume. God ignited the spark that started creation and then made it possible for creation to recreate itself. Then for some reason, he gave us the choice to mess up that perfection, at least on a temporary basis, or to take care of and preserve that creation. This Earth is our home.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Earthcare Commission continued

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*(Continued from page 5)*

It is where we live. Our creation story makes it clear that we are appointed as caretakers. It is our responsibility to ensure that creation has the opportunity to continue to sustain life.

Creation is our spiritual teacher. Creation teaches us things about God and about ourselves that we cannot learn from human teachers or books. Paul said, "Ever since God created the world, his invisible qualities, both his eternal power and his divine nature have been clearly seen; they are perceived in the things that God has made." (Romans 1:20)

For centuries Christians have marveled at the black sky filled with uncountable stars and considered the majesty and power of God. We stand on the mountain top, surrounded by mountain-tops, and hear God's voice in the wind caressing our skin. God smiles at us from the colored pebbles at the bottom of the clear pool below the water fall. We go into the wilderness and God guides our feet over rocky trails and walks with us when we think we can walk no further.

Creation is a Gift. When God set Creation in motion, each element of creation became a gift to all creation. Certainly, everything that we need

to survive; air, water, food, shelter, is all a product of God's creation. And the gift is free.

We modify it and pay each other for the modification. But none of that could happen if we did not have the free gift of air, water and earth. Everything comes from that, and when we finish with it, it goes back and again becomes a part of the gift to the next generation.

To whom was this gift made? Much of the time, we act as if the gift were made only to us, or even to me. It's mine, those trees, the ocean and its fish, the air, the rivers. I can do whatever I want with the gift, because it is mine. In reality the gift was made to all living things. That includes those that come into existence next year as well as those living a thousand years from now. We have no right to take it all.

In conclusion, it seems that the importance of this Christian duty comes back, like most of our duties, to Christ's declaration of the most important commandment. Love God and Love your neighbor as yourself. Part of loving God is protecting that which God loves, and part of loving our neighbor is protecting that which our neighbor needs to survive.

*Tim Banks*

## Come One, Come All, and Ladle for Dollars!

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April 28th after 10:30 worship the St. Paul's Iona pilgrimage teens are hosting a parish-wide soup cook-off. Here's how it works: if you have a great soup recipe, sign up to make a crock-pot of it and bring it in on the morning of April 28th. After church, all parishioners are invited to come to a tasting of the different soup entries, for which tickets (\$5) will be sold. Each ticket you purchase can be used to vote for your favorite soup entry. The winner of the contest will be the soup that has the most ticket-votes. (And, rumor

has it, there might be opportunities to "stack" your vote by buying extra tickets.) The result? A tasty lunch for all, a grand (but somewhat silly) prize for the winning cook, and a community-building fundraiser for the teens who are going on pilgrimage to Iona, Scotland this June.



Please join us on April 28th at noon!

## Come join the Outreach Commission!

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Are you knowing you want to volunteer somewhere but don't really know what's a fit for you? Why not start by joining our group? Our main charge is overseeing the distribution of each year's Christmas fair proceeds to organizations that are helping the neediest of our local, regional and world community and, just by joining us, you'll learn what's out there and what's not. We often have guest presenters from agencies we donate to or are thinking of donating to. Who knows, you might hear about a group that you really want to throw your commitment into. We've also spotted needs not met (or undermet) and we've supported or started initiatives that have gained their own momentum and independence.

Or maybe you volunteer plenty already but want to be part of the group steering much of St Paul's outreach (there's so much outreach our church does that's not under the commission). Or maybe you just want the fellowship of parish people who come together and talk of righting social wrongs, of putting faith into service, of helping God's neediest. Well, come join us!

## Altar Guild

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When Terry asked me to write an article for The Messenger, I thought the timing was perfect. After many years as an Altar Guild member, Marge Follansbee has decided to go off "active duty". I told Marge that she will always be a member and is welcome to help anytime! Marge has trained many new members, prepared the scheduling, and has been a great mentor to us all. Thank you so much for your years of dedicated and faithful service to St. Paul's.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped during Holy Week.

Our group meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm and we are always looking for new people. If you are so busy you can barely spare time, its only 2 hours a month. If you've plenty of time, you can more actively join, ... bite off an initiative and run with it. Here's an example ... many years ago St Paul's became a covenant member with Habitat for Humanity. We need a point person from St Paul's as our church representative. As a member of Outreach you might see this need and jump in with two feet (By the way, this is a live example. Even if you don't wish to join our monthly group, but might want to pick up this role for St Paul's, please contact me!).

Peace.

Phil Studwell, Outreach chair  
729-8259 or  
studwp@gmail.com  
(call and let me know you're coming so we can throw out the welcome mat)



With the exception of yours truly not filling the candles Maundy Thursday!, I thought everything went really well. I can tell you that people do notice the great job we do. I want to personally thank each of our members, Kathy, Nancy G, Roberta, Lucy, Lil, Sandy, Ada, Julia, Bonny, Nancy J, Ally, and our newest member, Carol A. Also, thanks to all of our additional helpers, your support is greatly appreciated too!

The Altar Guild is welcoming new members. Please contact Lenita at 712-1703 for more information.

*Lenita Richard*

## Christian Formation

As I prepare for my final months at St. Paul's, I'd like to take a moment to draw your attention (and gratitude!) to all the volunteers who make our children's programs possible. For although I'm the most public face of families at St. Paul's, each week many, many hands go into making church school, Rite 13, and J2A a success. And that's not even counting all the work that goes into the family service!

These quiet "behind-the-scenes" volunteers are helping build the future of our faith. Whether the kids they teach wind up here at St. Paul's or elsewhere in the church, collectively they will make up the next generation of Episcopal leaders. Looked at in this light, the investment of time and energy we as a parish put into working with them gives an enormous return on a relatively modest investment. Take church school teachers, for instance—for an hour a week (plus 2-3 meetings scattered through the year), these men and women have the privilege and joy of shaping the very souls of the children they teach. It's terribly important work—so important that I can hardly think of anything quite as holy or as profound. To look into a child's eyes with love and tell him or her the stories of Jesus and God's love for us: this is perhaps the most important gift we could give another human being.

For precisely this reason, many people are intimidated by this work. "It's not for me," I've heard time and time again. "I don't know my Bible well enough." Or, "I wouldn't know what to say."

Now, I do believe we should all make an honest appraisal and discernment of our gifts. However, let me tell you that volunteering with children is not terribly difficult. In fact, children are perhaps the most forgiving of audiences. They love to love, and in fact, generally do so with such abandon that it can sometimes even be a bit overwhelming. (As, for instance, when a bouncy 1st grader runs up and gives you a giant hug during coffee hour while you're holding a scalding cup of coffee; or when an energetic kindergartner shouts out

a well-intentioned, but perhaps somewhat embarrassing prayer for you during family worship.) They don't particularly care whether or not you're up-to-the-minute in your theological exegesis of Paul's letters to the Corinthians. What they do care about (and thrive on) is the loving presence of non-parental adults in their lives.

THIS—the gift of presence—is the primary one that we, as parishioners, are called to give the children in our midst.

On a practical level, what this means is that the stuff most people are worried about (Bible stories, how to do crafts, etc.) are really not the gifts that "make" a church school or youth leader. We provide plenty of support with those details—the curriculum comes with full explanations of each story (including an explanation of tricky theological or historical details); the person in my position plans and lays out all the supplies for each week's craft ahead of time; youth leaders gather periodically with the Christian Ed. Director to look ahead and plan out the season's lessons and activities. The gift that you, as a volunteer, need to bring is both the most important and the least tangible—the gift of your full attention and presence during that one hour a week that you're "on" as teacher.

In the coming months, you are likely to experience somewhat of a "hard sell" as we look to recruit the next crop of church school teachers and youth leaders. You should know that in most cases, you don't need to sign up for a full year—there are three "trimesters" in our church school year, and you can sign up for as little as one three-month season. (Three months at 1 hour/week = 12 hours total, for those of you who need help with the math.) And even that three-month commitment is very flexible. We usually try to form teams of three teachers per class so that on any given date, only two of you are "on" to teach. This



Kristin Agudelo



## St. Paul's Worship leaders in April

	<u>Service</u>	<u>Celebrant</u>	<u>Preacher</u>
Monday, April 1	Holy Eucharist at Thornton Hall	The Rev. Ben Barnes	The Rev. Ben Barnes
Thursday April 4	Noon Eucharist	The Rev. Mary Ann Hoy	The Rev. Mary Ann Hoy
Sunday April 7	8:00 am Holy Eucharist	The Rev. Mary Ann Hoy	The Rev. Mary Ann Hoy
	9:30 am Family Service	The Rev. Mary Ann Hoy	Kristin Agudelo
	10:30 am Holy Eucharist	The Rev. Mary Ann Hoy	The Rev. Mary Ann Hoy
Thursday April 11	Holy Eucharist at Thornton Oaks	The Rev. Ben Barnes	The Rev. Ben Barnes
Thursday April 11	Noon Eucharist	The Rev. Al Niese	The Rev. Al Niese
Sunday April 14	8:00 Holy Eucharist	The Rev. Al Niese	The Rev. Al Niese
	9:30 am Family Service	The Rt. Rev. Stephen Lane	The Rt. Rev. Stephen Lane
	10:30 am Holy Eucharist	The Rt. Rev. Stephen Lane	The Rt. Rev. Stephen Lane
Wednesday April 17	Holy Eucharist at The Highlands	The Rev. Al Niese	The Rev. Al Niese
Sunday April 21	8:00 am Holy Eucharist	The Rev. Bill Blaine-Wallace	The Rev. Bill Blaine-Wallace
	9:30 am Family Service	The Rev. Bill Blaine-Wallace	The Ven. Mary Lee Wile
	10:30 am Holy Eucharist	The Rev. Bill Blaine-Wallace	The Rev. Bill Blaine-Wallace
Thursday April 25	Noon Eucharist	The Rev. Al Niese	The Rev. Al Niese
Sunday April 28	8:00 am Holy Eucharist	The Rev. Al Niese	The Rev. Al Niese
	9:30 am Family Service	The Rev. Al Niese	Kristin Agudelo
	10:30 am Holy Eucharist	The Rev. Al Niese	The Rev. Al Niese

allows teachers to visit far-off family, take vacations, or otherwise adjust your teaching schedule to suit your own particular needs. (And notice, too, that you're never with kids on your own—there's always a co-teacher in the room, a fact that takes a lot of the potential pressure off you as the teacher.)

As we prepare to launch into a season of volunteer recruitment, I'd urge you to consider if God is calling you to work with our children or teens. We've been blessed this year with a wonderful roster of teachers, but there's no question that we will have a fair number of gaps

in next year's roster that need to be filled. This year, in particular, it will be important for us to create a strong complement of church school and youth leaders so that we can move forward confidently during this time of much transition. Please give the topic your prayerful consideration in the coming month. And if you already know that for whatever reason, this is not your ministry, then please join me in praying that those among us who are suited for this work can discern God's calling.

Thank you, and much peace to you all.

*Kristin Agudelo*

# Commissions, Committees and Small Groups

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## Buildings & Grounds

Paul Womer, Chair ..... 373-1020

Earthcare Tim Banks, Chair..... 729-6592

Education Director, Kristin Agudelo .....725-7665

Adult Education Committee, Pam Nugent ..... 737-2369

Finance Peter McCracken, Chair ..... 846-0150

Frontline Pat Ryan, Chair ..... 725-5439

Healing Ministry Pam Nugent ..... 737-2369

Outreach Phil Studwell, Chair ..... 729-1083

Pastoral Care Jean Mulligan, Chair ..... 798-6765

Worship Leslie Brancart, Chair 729-7873

Acolytes: Tom Nugent 737-2369

Altar Guild: Lenita Richard 688-2249

Flowers: Abigail Manny 725-9062

Eucharistic Ministers/Lectors: Julia Walkling 725-6353

Ushers, Greeters: Ralph Thivierge 729-3511

Welcomers: Caroline Russell 729-1845

## Groups

Exploring the Word of the Lord, Pam Nugent 737-2369

Fair Chair, Rodney Richard 688-2249

Holy Folders/Office Volunteers, Susan Tyler 725-5342

Holy Stitchers, Jane Johnson 729-7940

Men's Group, Al Niese 443-8613

Prayer Group/Chain, Margery Follansbee 729-4858

Women's Group, Sarah Arnold. 373-1738



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Happy Birthday

04/06 Jean Clifford  
04/06 Justin McIntire  
04/10 Beth Barnes  
04/10 Oliver Brown  
04/10 Allen Springer  
04/12 Catherine Bull  
04/13 Linda Ashe-Ford  
04/13 Andrew Cadot  
04/13 Margery Follansbee  
04/13 Donald Labonte  
04/15 Terry Leitzell  
04/16 Ethan Ford  
04/18 Phil Studwell  
04/20 Rosemary Cumback  
04/23 Lawrence Arnold  
04/25 Jonathan Koehler  
04/26 Rick Wile  
04/28 Dwayne Robinson  
04/29 Abigail Manny  
04/29 Duane Peck  
04/30 Emma Levy

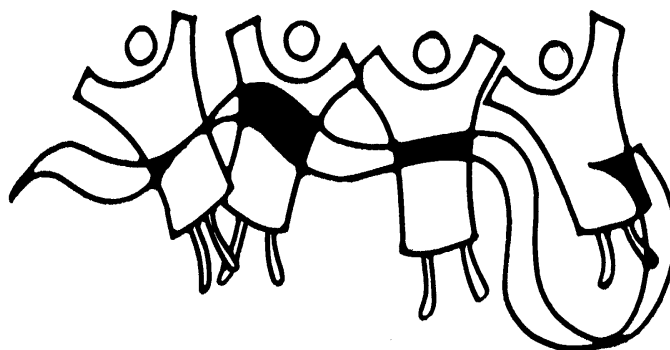
### Happy Anniversary

04/03/1963 Linton & Bonnie Studdiford  
04/07/1954, Richard & Anne Brautigam  
04/08/1961, George & Duane Peck  
04/10/1999, Claude & Leslie Brancart

## Directory Updates

### Updates

Anne Street, new phone 841-7516



*The Messenger* is published monthly. With a combined July/August issue. It is emailed to the parish. Paper copies are available at the church for those who prefer them. It is also mailed to those who do not have email.

Please send submission for the May is by the 22nd of April. Articles may be emailed to [stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org](mailto:stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org) or placed in Susan Tyler's box in the office.

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APRIL 2013**

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The Ven. Mary Lee Wile, Archdeacon  
The Rev. Chick Carroll, Deacon  
Terry Leitzell, Senior Warden  
Pat Ryan, Junior Warden  
Susan Tyler, Parish Administrator  
Kristin Agudelo, Youth Christian Formation Dir.  
Robert Judd, Music Director  
Diane Inman, Administrative Assistant  
Aubrey Farmer, Sexton  
Kimmy Edwards, Nursery Caregiver  
Lois Kwantz, Junior Choir Director

We're on the web

[www.StPaulsMaine.org](http://www.StPaulsMaine.org)

And Facebook

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The Rt. Rev. Stephen T. Lane  
IX Bishop of Maine

The Bishop is coming!

On April 14th, Bishop Stephen Lane will be present to celebrate the Eucharist at two worship services--our 9:30 Family Worship upstairs in the new church school/choir space, and 10:30 in the main sanctuary. He'll be confirming teens and adults that day at the later service and will be present for a reception after 10:30 worship.

Please join us for this very special day!