



## St. Paul's and Grace, Bath Celebrate Easter Vigil Together by The Rev. Carolyn H. Eklund

The Rev. Dr. Ted Gaiser, the new rector of Grace Church, Bath contacted me just before Lent to propose that our parishes collaborate on this year's Easter Vigil. Joseph Russell in his book, "The New Prayer Book Guide to Christian Education" describes the importance of the Easter Vigil in this way,

*The Easter Vigil is the most important service of the Christian year. In the early church the catechumens (those preparing for baptism), their sponsors, and catechists (instructors) gathered for an all-night storytelling session that culminated in baptism, the proclamation of the resurrection, and the eucharist. The baptisms were by total immersion. As candidates were lowered into the water, they would remember the words about dying with Christ in baptism so that they could be raised with Christ in his resurrection. They were given white robes to wear after their immersion and anointing and then were led out to the congregation for the Holy Eucharist.* Joseph P. Russell, editor

The Easter Vigil will be held at St. Paul's on Saturday, March 19 at 7:00 pm. We will gather with the faithful of Grace Church in the courtyard off Pleasant Street and kindle the new fire of the resurrection. In the early church, the deacons had a central role in the liturgy as they do today. We will have three deacons participating in the liturgy. They will be the bearers of the newly lit Paschal Candle ("The Giant Candle") into the dark church, chant the Exultet, read the gospel, set the table and dismiss us into the night of the resurrection after we worship.

Members of St. Paul's and Grace will join in the reading of our salvation history with drama and music and candlelight. This year we will share in reading all nine selections that tell the story of how God saved God's people then and the promise of how God saves God's people now. Please mark your calendar and join us! And if you feel called to prepare for baptism, please contact the parish office. You won't have to wear a white robe or be fully immersed into water! But you will have a sponsor and be instructed in the baptismal covenant, have water splashed on you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. And you will receive the anointing of the chrism, the special oil sanctified by our bishop that "...seals you as Christ's own for ever."

*continued on page 2*

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9:00 a.m.  
First  
Sundays

March 6  
4th Sunday  
of Lent

The  
Prodigal  
Son

Life

Together

## EASTER SUNDAY AT ST. PAUL'S, MARCH 27 – 8:00 am and 10:30 am

*Childcare offered starting at 10:00 am; special seating for families with small children and those with disabilities.*

*No Church School or 9:30 am Family Eucharist in the Upper Room*



Join us for the most holy and joyful day in the year of the Christian faith! There will be special choral and instrumental music at both the 8 am and 10:30 am services. Witness how we will release our “butterflies” from their cocoon (the hands of God) and join the joyful procession waving butterflies, the best symbol of resurrection!

## HOLY WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

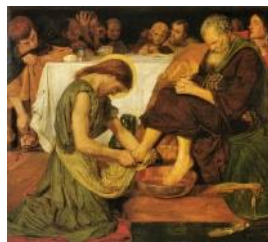
Sunday, March 20, Palm Sunday at St. Paul's – 8:00 am, 9:30 am; 10:30 am,



We will begin with the Liturgy of the Palms after we gather in the Great Hall. This is the time we bless the palms, distribute them and lead a procession into the worship space (at 9:30 we will go upstairs to the Upper Room.) Palm Sunday is sometimes called “Passion Sunday.” The liturgical color is red to symbolize Christ’s blood as he makes his way to the crucifixion. At ALL THREE SERVICES, 8:00 am 9:30 am and 10:30 am we will hear Luke’s Gospel passion lesson told in dramatic parts. **Church School will be at 10:30 am.**

March 21, 22, 23, 24; Holy Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

- \* (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) - **Noonday Prayer** will begin in the church. It will begin at **Noon** with brief prayers and singing of a simple, unaccompanied hymn.
- \* (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday **only**) - **Evening Prayer at 5:30 pm**, candlelit prayer, chanting of Taizé hymns and screening of a brief Lenten video with time for discussion.
- \* Thursday, March 24, **Maundy Thursday at 7:00 pm**, washing of the feet, stripping of the altar and “garden of repose.”



- \* **Good Friday**, March 25, **11:00 am**, Stations of the Cross around the neighborhood, a devotion around the block. Gather in front of St. Paul's on Pleasant Street.
- \* **Good Friday Liturgy at Noon with St. Paul's choir**, Dramatic reading of St. John's Passion in parts, Holy Communion from the reserved Sacrament. The church will remain open until 3 pm for meditation.

## Lent is a Time for Retreat and Taking Stock of our Ministry Together

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We are well into our Lenten practices for these 40 days of Lent. We make a plan at least once a year to prepare our lives and souls for the Passion and Resurrection of Christ. For me this season has been one of retreat. I will go to the monastery in Cambridge for a two day retreat with the brothers of SSJE. It's a nourishing time of prayer, silence, rest and worship.

But this season it's been a time of retreat for our St. Paul's staff and our Vestry. Just today, our staff and I concluded a rich time together that was facilitated by the Rev. Bill Blaine-Wallace. We shared our passions, disappointments, challenges and gifts as they relate to our work at St. Paul's. We left after lunch agreeing to developing a list of values and priorities for our work together in the next year.

Just a few weeks ago, the Vestry met for a day and a half in retreat led by Cristle Judd. Cristle led us in prayer, singing and in a deep discussion of I Corinthians 12, the chapter in which St. Paul outlines what it means to be the Body of Christ, the Church. Using the human body as a metaphor, we discussed in small groups the various ways that the Vestry is the Body of Christ and the passions and vision we have for St. Paul's. We asked the question, "What is God calling us to?"

The word "discernment" came up frequently with the members of the Vestry in the context of ferreting out and searching to learn new concepts and hear new voices in community. How do we discern where the greater focus needs to be on ministries that are important to us, but are most in need? Our work as a Vestry will continue as we plan and organize our Mutual Study of Ministry which is a process that seeks to understand where the parish is after we have worked together for these two years and four months.

The Rev. Canon Michael Ambler led the Vestry in a process to organize the areas of ministry we most wish to learn about based on the St. Paul's 2012 Profile for the search for the new rector.

### *What is God calling us to?*

We reviewed the 2012 goals for the parish and the qualities you were looking for in a new rector. Then we developed a list of current goals we want to investigate with an assortment of parishioners of all ages. Here is our list of current goals:

1. Bring in new families and young people: develop Family Ministries, music, spiritual growth for parents, young adults and singles.
2. Develop St. Paul's role in the larger community and nourish outreach.
3. Create opportunities for members of all four congregations (including Thursday's Eucharist) to relate with each other as a community of Christ.
4. Minister with empathy and care to individual parishioners in need.

Each Vestry member will conduct an interview with about 3 people to have a conversation regarding each goal. As you will see when you read the goals for the 2012 Rector Search, this parish has moved forward on several goals. This is cause for celebration! And there is more work to do together. The Vestry will be conducting interviews after Easter in order to "take the pulse" of the parish, the Vestry will take 2-4 weeks to conduct all the conversations. They will gather the responses and call upon our facilitator (Canon Ambler) to compile them.

The next step in the process will include a Vestry meeting with Canon Ambler to present the results and formulate at least four goals on which we agree to move forward. Finally, we will share the summary report, the goals and the plan for achieving them with the parish. Our plan is to be able to share the Mutual Study of Ministry results and plan with the parish before July of this year. I hope that it will form the basis of our planning for the program year in September.

*The Rev. Carolyn H. Eklund*

# Adult Christian Formation: What's on Tap for March?

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I hope you have already been enjoying some of the Adult Christian Formation activities for Lent—the Lenten Meditations booklet and the Lenten Suppers, Study, and Sharing. If you haven't, there's still time. Meditation booklets are still available, and there are still some programs in March that deal with our selected parish read for Lent, John Philip Newell's *The Rebirthing of God*. Join us for a shared supper followed by the program. If you haven't had a chance to read the book yet, the presentations may inspire you to do so, but come anyway because the material presented by our speakers each week is interesting in its own right.

## Lenten Meditations Booklet

St. Paul's has enjoyed this homegrown booklet for more than a decade. Each year is different—different writers, different inspired thoughts—and yet each year's booklet is wonderful in its own way. The finished product, forty meditations in which parishioners share their insights, experiences, and thoughts on the daily Bible readings in Lent, is always eagerly awaited. It is a spiritual sharing of the deepest kind, to the benefit of both writer and reader.

You are invited to use this booklet of inspired meditations to accompany your own forty-day journey. Thanks to all the meditation writers for their work, time, and thoughts. In proclaiming God's word, we all are strengthened in our faith. That's a gift in which we all can share.

## Lenten Supper, Study, and Sharing

John Philip Newell, the author of *The Rebirthing of God*, is the former abbot of the Iona Community in Scotland. His book relies on lots of storytelling drawn from his own experiences, inviting the reader to journey into eight areas of renewal that seem to be emerging within the Christian Church. In doing so, he looks at what is central to our lives as disciples—a path into the future that retains the heart of the gospel.

Each chapter in this short, easy-to-read book can be taken as an inspiring and prophetic meditation on what to Newell seem to be the emerging trends

in Christianity today. Facilitated by members of St. Paul's, we will look at five of them through group and small-group: care of the Earth; reconnecting with the compassion of Jesus; finding the Light in our world, which seems to suffer more every day; a call to travel the pilgrim's way to unknown territories in our lives; and a desire to lean into the sacredness of love, which alone is stronger than death.

Bringing his own Celtic perspective, Newell explores issues facing our Church today and challenges us to be open to the ways in which God can transform our lives, our faith community, and the world. Please join us to be nourished by food and fellowship at St. Paul's and by Newell's inspired words.

When: Five Tuesdays, Continuing March 1, 8, 15  
(The Sunday following is designated as a snow date.)  
Potluck supper (5:30 p.m.-6:15 p.m.)  
Forum and discussion (6:15 p.m.-7:30 p.m.)

Presenters:

3/1 Pam Nugent (Ch. 3)  
3/8 Elizabeth Powers (Ch. 4)  
3/15 The Rev. Mary Ann Hoy (Ch. 8)

## Small Group to Discuss *Surprised by Hope*, a Book by N. T. Wright

The study of this book, facilitated by Jim Horner, will focus on the question: What is the ultimate Christian hope? Following the chapters, the discussion will include the topics of heaven and the new possibilities for change within the present world. This group began on Sunday, February 21, 9:30-10:15, and will continue for 10 sessions on the dates indicated below. Please contact Jim for more information and details on purchasing Wright's book.

When: 10 Sundays, February 21, 28, March 13, 20,  
April 10, 17, 24, May 8, 15, 22  
9:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

Pam Nugent



# Dominican Republic Journey Deeply Affecting for All

We arrived back from our trip to volunteer with Outreach 360 in the Dominican Republic early Sunday morning, February 21. We shivered a little---but not as much as we might have!---in the 50 degree weather, having just left humid days in the 80's and nights that only went down to the 70's. Our experience was, by turns, challenging, absorbing, confusing, rewarding and joyful. Here are some highlights:

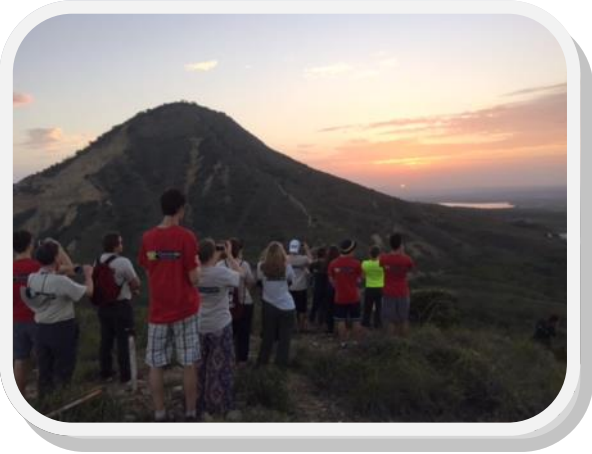
- Awakening to dozens of roosters crowing and many motor scooters (“motos”) heading to school or work.
- Standing in front of groups of schoolchildren and chanting, “Wa-wa-wa-what’s the weather, what’s-- what’s the weather?”
- Watching our planning ideas take shape as children of all ages eagerly volunteered to engage in activities designed to help them speak English.



- Playing chasing and ball games with children during recess at tiny Pasluz Escuela.
- Playing “Papa Caliente” (hot potato) with the 5th/6th grade class at an even smaller school in Laguna Verde.
- Holding our own prayer service each morning on the rooftop of our Outreach 360 building in Barrio Salomon Jorge, Montecristi.
- Singing, drumming and dancing merengue with our new friends from Berkley High School in Michigan.
- Answering Spanish/Dominican trivia questions before eating rice, beans, meat, plantain and tropical fruits for lunch and dinner.



- Hiking up El Morro, the local mountain, to watch the sunrise.



- Giving and receiving friendly “holas” everywhere we walked in the town.
- Buying fresh juices from the local “juice lady.”
- Swimming in high surf and warm water at the foot of El Morro.
- Visiting the crowded twice-weekly market in Dajabon, where Haitians cross the border to trade with Dominicans
- Hugs and love from the children we served.

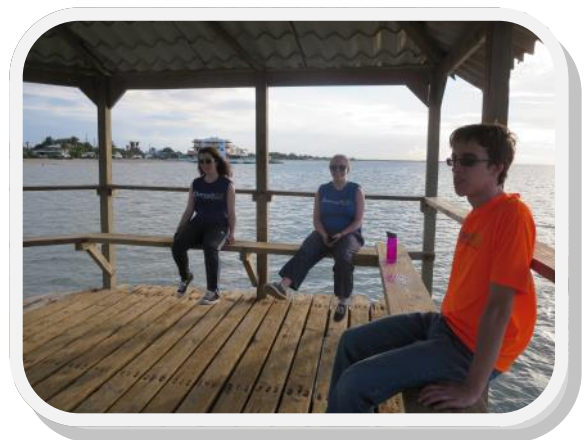


Many thanks to all the parishioners who helped us fundraise to make this trip a reality, and to St. Paul’s for so consistently supporting these journeys for our youth. We appreciate the strong and consistent support of parents Roberta and Al Hipkins, Susan and Bob Brown, and Nancy Johnson and Jeff Collins, and we are grateful for the work of Caroline Nickerson and the Nickerson family in helping fundraise, providing space for our retreat and suggesting Outreach 360 in the first place. Special thanks go to Joan Reynolds and Roberta and Al Hipkins, who drove us to the airport at 3:30 am and then picked us up after midnight; to Linda Ashe-Ford, who created beautiful prayer booklets for each of us and “prayed us out” at 3:30 am on a work day; and to our rector Carolyn, who sent us daily prayers while we were away.

The youth will offer reflections during the First Sundays Together service on Sunday, April 3. Later in the spring, we hope to offer another Dominican dinner to show our thankfulness for all of your support. We invite you to be there for either or both of these, and to talk to us at any time about this remarkable experience.

In love and gratitude,

Joanna Brown, Ally Collins, Cedric Hipkins, Markis Larrivee, Hugh Savage, Myrna Koonce and Macauley Lord



## From the Music Desk...

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“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.” Familiar words? The author, St. Francis of Assisi, faced a turning point in life: serve as an apprentice to his father’s lucrative business or abandon the world of trade for a humble existence and service. My curiosity about this great man of faith led me to wander in his footsteps, to climb the hill to the old town wall of Assisi, eventually visiting the chapel where he had what some would call a conversion experience. His eyes were open to a Holy One who knew him and the way in which he should walk. As I stood at the stone wall and scanned the farming area of the Umbria valley below, the beauty of patch-work crops lying quilt-like as far as I could see, I wondered what group of experiences led him to compose the prayer we sing in so many settings.

When my musician ears hear the term ‘instrument,’ orchestral, band, and keyboard lists start populating. The tone, placement, and personality of each spins in a weave of dynamics and timbre. Some are harsher and more strident; others are pleasant, soothing. Each instrument requires a different use of fingering, keys, air, and movement to operate. The range of notes produced is dependent on the instrument’s construction and the skill level of the player. Some are more easily played, while others require years of practice and experience to mature the technique and possible expression, the voice we sometimes take for granted.

Each Sunday it is my delight, duty, and privilege to sit at the organ console and live out St. Francis’s prayer. The choices I make about the instrumental sounds available, influence how you as congregants or the choirs as singers might be inspired by the texts of hymns and service music. Not always do I ‘get it right.’ There are moments when I yield to my desire to open up the instrument and put the ‘pedal to the metal’ and ‘let ‘er rip.’ Yet even my ears have limits. And over the years I’ve learned



Randy Day

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that acoustic pipe sounds and digital pipe sounds have a differing effect on one’s ‘peace.’

My prayer for the remainder of Lent, this time period when the organ is quieter, even silent at times when normally played is that all who come to worship at St. Paul’s will be led into a more peaceful zone. We will have time for noisier joy in Eastertide and throughout the season of Pentecost. But now is the time for us to hear the softer tones, the gentler voices all around us. The brighter trumpets and trombones, the reedier clarinets and oboes, the high-pitched piccolo and coupled diapasons can wait.

Let’s tune up our ‘instrument,’ check the ‘technique’ we use to ‘play’ it, and endeavor to live out what St. Francis aspired to do in his Lenten journey: be instruments of peace. When our ‘sound’ diffuses anger, sadness, and all those negatives that abound, the sweet grace of our collective ‘tone’ will breathe beauty, restoration, and new life. The quilt work of our landscape at St. Paul’s will vibrate with an effect unmatched elsewhere. May the Holy One who turned around one Italian merchant son’s spiritual travel bless us as we use our ‘instruments’ for peace.

*Randy Day*

Director of Music Ministry



## Easter Butterfly Project

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Thank you to everyone who has already participated and to those who will soon be contributing butterflies! The more amassed, the more significant the visual impact of these offerings will be for our Easter celebration! I'm looking also for some volunteers to help connect and launch them on Holy Saturday afternoon.

If you haven't already done so: Please take one or more butterflies and dedicate each to a resurrection or transformation that you desire, a prayer for yourself or a loved one, ....a place?...or perhaps a dream or vision that hasn't yet come to fruition.

Cut out the butterfly. Write as much or as little as you like on it, and decorate on both sides if you'd like (without gluing things to it.) Then place it into the chrysalis which is located in the sanctuary, at any time by Holy Saturday. Are there any tiny steps you could take to assist these resurrection prayers?



Feel free to share these butterflies with members who can't come to church or with non-members who might also like to participate. We'll let them fly in the sanctuary on Easter!

*Jane Burke (207 626-0738)*

## Letter of Thanks

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Dear Member of the St. Paul's Community,

I am writing on behalf of Karen Weller's family to belatedly thank all of you for your support and love during Karen's time of dying. You were so caring of Shane and Lexi, you arranged on short notice a beautiful memorial/funeral service and reception, many of you came to the hospital and house to support her and her family. You made the impossible possible during a time of deep grief. Karen spoke often of her church, of how important it was to her, of her connection to The Gathering Place. In a few short years your church become her spiritual place of safety, comfort, and joy.

We are scattered across the United States, and are sorry hat we cannot be there to thank you in person. We will always be grateful and will never forget you, and your outpouring of love and sympathy.

With love and appreciation.

*Valerie Weller*  
For the Weller Family



## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Happy Birthday!

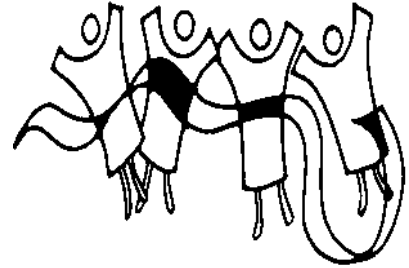
03/01 Sam Bailey  
03/01 Nancy Hawkins  
03/01 Bonita Labonte  
03/01 Brendan Kelley  
03/01 Kelton Rose  
03/04 Adam Fraser  
03/04 Thomas Davison  
03/05 Audrey Burns  
03/05 Bennett Joseph  
03/06 James Rochette  
03/09 Taylor Peck-Moad  
03/10 Mary Lee Wile  
03/10 Katy Kennedy  
03/11 Owen Howes  
03/13 Emily Baer

03/14 Richard Nickerson  
03/14 Joshua Frazier  
03/14 Jacob Cohen  
03/18 Pat McCabe  
03/19 Benjamin Fraser  
03/19 Pat Ryan  
03/20 Corrine Beal  
03/21 Isaac Olsen  
03/23 Jaxson Redlon  
03/25 Jennifer Huppe  
03/26 Ethel Grasmuck  
03/26 Devonian Redlon  
03/28 Nan McCurrach  
03/28 Lois Thacker  
03/29 Rodney Sarle  
03/30 Peter McCracken

03/31 Lucinda White  
03/31 Marjorie Arnold

### Happy Anniversary!

03/24  
Tom Keating & Lynn Ouellette



If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please let the office know so that we may update our files.



## Ashes to Go

For the third year in a row, on Ash Wednesday four different teams from St. Paul's took to the streets to offer Ashes to Go: at the soup kitchen, on Maine Street, at MidCoast Hospital, and on the Bowdoin College campus. Deacons Chick Carroll and Mary Lee Wile were joined in this ministry by Bill Edman, Tobey Lee, Macauley Lord, Richelle Sipiora, and Donna Spencer.

*The Messenger* is published monthly, excluding January and 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 submissions for the April issue by March 18.** Articles may be emailed to [stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org](mailto:stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org) or placed in Susan Tyler's box in the parish office.

**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH  
MARCH 2016**

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The Rev. Carolyn Eklund, Rector  
The Rev. Mary Lee Wile, Deacon  
The Rev. Chick Carroll, Deacon  
Pat Ryan, Senior Warden  
Paul Womer, Junior Warden  
Randy Day, Music Ministry Director  
Jane Burke, Christian Formation Director  
Susan Tyler, Parish Administrator  
Melanie Chicoria, Administrative Assistant  
Kimmy Edwards, Nursery Caregiver  
Aubrey Farmer, Sexton

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We're on the web!

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

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March 6, The Fourth Sunday of Lent  
The Prodigal Son



9:00 a.m.  
First Sundays

Life  
Together

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