

A Publication of St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Watertown, WI 53094

# The Epistle

Special points of interest:

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## A message from our Priest - by Fr. Mark Moore



I'm cold!!!  
It's past Easter! It's the end of April! It's mid spring!  
And yet our warmest days are those that just barely make it to the low 60's. I'm cold and I'm tired of being cold. As much as I do love winter and the change of seasons, I am ready to get on with the next change. There, I said it. Now I should find some cheese to go with all that whine! Especially since this is now the Easter season. We have finished Lent, a season of repentance, forgiveness, and refocusing our lives on Christ. We made it through Holy Week. That time of extra worship and prayer as we walk with God, or should I say we are more aware of God with us, through our dark times. And then celebrate in grand style the resurrection. A time when we remember that we worship a living, loving, and active -in-our-lives God. That is truly something to celebrate. And yet there are times when I focus on the negative things, like this cold spring.

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In some ways my personal life has been a little bit like this spring. It has been very challenging for both Mary and I as we work our way through uncharted and somewhat scary territory. It is at times like these that people can feel the most alone. And it makes it very hard to see God's love in the world. It is made much more bearable by the compassion and understanding demonstrated by everyone at St. Paul's towards both Mary and me. And for that I thank you all.

These recent events and my letter of a couple of weeks ago have prompted some of you to wonder about my future here at St. Paul's. As you can imagine there is much that is in doubt for me right now but my parish home is not one of them. I have no plans to leave St. Paul's and I have no sense that my ministry here is anywhere near finished. Indeed, we have much work to do. There are still people who don't know that the Lord is risen, and alive and well, right here



### **The Bigger Picture - continued**

in Watertown. There are thousands in our small community that still don't know that they are loved. We definitely have work to do.

Thank you all for a wonderful and blessed Holy Week. And may the spirit of the risen lord guide you in a peaceful and joyous Easter season! Alleluia!!!



## The “PLAN” - by Vicki Wright , Senior Warden

We are five months into the growth plan that was proposed at our annual meeting. This growth plan was developed in response to your request at a special meeting where we voted on use of the Woodard Schaefer funds. “We have to have a plan” was heard loud and clear. Eight members with varied St. Paul’s involvement and interests met to develop and propose ideas for this “plan”.

The group did some research on small parishes and what promotes membership growth. The big question for us was: What encourages people to come and then to stay at a church?

- An organized outreach program that is visible to the community
- A parish that has a culture of being warm and inviting
- A vitality and energy in the membership
- A good priest/minister
- Meaningful programs for members
- An active youth program for middle/high school students which includes youth going on trips

A good music program

*Given what we had found out about small churches, membership growth and St. Paul’s, we brainstormed ideas and came up with our four-point plan:*

Further enhance our outreach program by expanding the types of outreach to meet community needs and membership outreach interests.

Provide an education program for new or potential members.

Develop a fellowship program that helps current membership be even more inclusive of newcomers.

Make St. Paul’s identified though out the community by increased publicity, monthly special interest classes, and fundraisers for nonprofit organizations.

So just what is happening right now with this plan?

Jean Joliff, Jean Schuler and Wendy Wilke have taken on developing a monthly outreach project that in which at sometime just about everyone can become involved. You just have to decide which project rings a bell with you. Wendy and our two Jeans will keep us advised of the monthly projects through the bulletin, newsletter and email. What can you do to help others?

Father Moore has established a new inquirer’s class that is meeting on Thursday mornings at 10:30. Even if that is not for you, he has developed quite a following in the Sunday morning Bible study at 9:00 and a Wednesday evening class at the coffee house, Tribeca. All of these opportunities are available at various times during the week. You just need to select the one that works with your schedule. Check the calendar on online for other opportunities. Be sure to invite a friend to join you!

Our welcoming committee of Walter Mirk, Jean Schuler, Peter and Vicki Wright continue to look for additional ways to help visitors feel welcome. Soon you will be seeing a visitor’s booklet/guide to our service.

Finally, with number four in our plan, Ellen Klaus and Paul Citerony have agreed to help with publicity and getting the St. Paul’s name out in the community. Ellen will soon begin to organize monthly community classes that will begin in September. Do you have a special talent or skill that you would be willing to share with members of the Watertown community? These are one-time classes that you are able to teach in our guild hall. Paul will be our at home, “roving reporter”, using his computer skills to help make the connection between what we are doing at St. Paul’s with the greater Watertown community. Be sure to share digital pictures of when there is a special event with Paul and he will get it in the paper. We have to get our name known for something other than the church with the fire. We should become known as the church with a fire in our belly for helping others!

To really develop this plan and make St. Paul’s grow, we need the support and effort by every single member of this parish! All of us need to reflect upon the question: **What can I do to help to this parish grow?** The answer is pretty straight- forward. Invite those you know to church and church events. Participate in the development of church programs. “It takes a village to raise a child” and in the same manner, it takes all of us to grow this parish!

A note from our Treasurer - by Alice Mirk



**We have good news for those of you who don't like writing checks every week before church and sometimes forgetting and leaving them on the kitchen table! St Paul's may be coming up with the perfect solution for you! We are in the process of setting up automatic withdrawal capacity at the church so that you can contribute to St Paul's once a month just like your automated payments for electric and gas bills with no fuss, no muss! This will take a couple of weeks to set up but we should have the capacity really soon to offer this through our bank, so stay tuned. We hope to have the information enclosed with your quarterly statements.**



Praise from God and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Daughters of the King (DOK) have had some active weeks since the last newsletter. We have responded to the church's need for more Lay Eucharistic Ministers so after a training, Father Mark made a schedule and then he made another schedule and then he tweaked it all again. It was the first foot forward that was the most difficult, I think. We are well on our way now and hoping that those who are in need of communion will let us know so that we can "schedule" it in.

We also have been truly nourished by Father Mark's adult education program for Lent. The DOK was invited to participate in the Intercessory prayer class. The rewards were two-fold in that the DOK heard good words from the parishioners that we gave them good information. The Daughters, however, also received from the gathering since we had never discussed the methods we each used to cover the intercessory (from intercede) prayers of our parish. Some find music to hum along; others have special areas to pray; and yet others use no words at all but visualize the person being prayed for. In summing up, a good time was had by all!

Anyone desiring more information about Daughters of the King and the place it could occupy in your life, please contact:

Beth Wroblewski  
Georgia Irre  
Cathy Shanks  
Nancy Bauer

(Phone numbers are in the directory or see us in person at the coffee hour.)

## About Evangelism and Congregational Vitality

By: Paul Citerony

**Both personal spiritual and congregational growth** stems from evangelism which is about finding new ways to connect with one another and the community as a whole and thus serve the body of Christ. This is associated with a congregational vitality!



**Be mindful that evangelism is not about** convincing others to believe exactly as we do. It's more about sharing our faith in a way that is attractive and contagious to others. It's about wanting to engage our friends and neighbors in thinking which enhances their inner strength and in a peace abiding in a deeper Christian interactive commitment, - being there for each other, in good times and difficult times, especially for the needy who are always among us.

**Call it audacious evangelism which enables us** to practice a more enlightened spiritual self interest. This audacity is inherent in a congregational vitality – an energetic commitment to look beyond our immediate parish community, its past work, its current size and do outreach and fellowship works, perhaps in a coalition with other community organizations - and Yes! - To accept that spiritual challenge beyond just being well- intentioned.

**We can share effective various evangelism practices in every day life by:**

**Reaching out - persistently inviting friends** to places where they can experience Christian faith and the sense of a supportive community in fellowship activities such as Potlucks, Adult Dinners, Small Groups, Outreach Ministry endeavors, etc.

**More importantly, doing outreach and fellowship works** with a mix of church friends and new non-parish friends and trust in the Lord to use the interaction to foster Christian bonding toward mutual support for dynamic more effective outreach. It's doing some familiar good works together with new ambitious ones!

**A congregational vitality means** having the audacity, - a willingness to try new things and include more interaction among parishioners and especially with the larger community. It means stepping out of our comfort zone and being challenged and stretched. Some of us may say "I don't have time for that". Well, the reality of church dynamics is that increasingly engaging our larger community is inevitable. We are either evolving into the more inclusive church God has called us to be or we are slowly receding into congregational irrelevance.



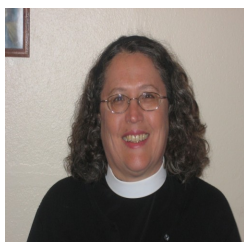
### **Summer Bible School June 13-17**

**Saint Paul's would like to hold a Bible School this year for a week in June for the younger children who this year have been involved in the Godly Play class. Ages 4 through 9 will be accepted. This class can take up to eight students and will be run by Alice Mirk and two helpers. A minimum of 6 students is required to make the effort worthwhile.**

**Classes will run from 9am to 3pm. The students will use the Guildhall, and the church kitchen will be used for the lunch preparation and snacks. Focus will be on stories from the Old Testament and will involve learning the stories through a mix of children's theatre and art. The purpose is to expose children to the many bible stories that link to our rich Christian heritage.**

**Lunch will be provided as part of this experience and the children will help fix their own snacks and meals. A registration fee of \$10 will be needed to help defray the cost of the lunch and snacks throughout the week. Registration forms will be available the first week of May in the Guildhall.**

**We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity for your children.**



### **An Open Letter to Deacon Kay from The Godly Play Kids**

Dear Deacon Kay,

We are going to miss you a lot. We are going to miss telling you our stories of the week on Sunday morning, our big school events and our funny stories. We are going to miss your stories about your dog and your bird watching too. We will miss your turn at story telling, you have so much to share with us still we know you have so many stories inside you, we hope you have a chance to share them with more kids where you are going.

We will miss they way you gathered prays from each of us for pray time. No matter what or who we wanted to pray about you made each one of us feel important and when we linked hands and our contribution was mentioned it made us feel good. We will miss snack time when you made sure that each of us was included in the conversation to make sure that we had something to tell about the week that just passed and the week that was coming up. You make everyone around you feel good!

**Goodbye Deacon Kay WE WILL MISS YOU**

## To St. Paul's Parishioners and Friends,

By interacting with area businesses in the general community and supporting them it's our hope that we can enjoy new opportunities to join with them in bettering this area. They are our neighbors who in various ways also support our general community and serve us all year long.

Please ask them to place an AD in our newsletter and events placemats. St. Paul's can then more readily know of and patronize their businesses as well as share their services with all our parishioners, neighbors and friends. **In this way, your support of St. Paul's is also supporting our area advertisers so that together, we can all better serve the greater Watertown community.**

**The size of each AD space in both the newsletters and placemats for one year is a single block of about 1 1/4 inches x 2 inches and we can display a single block AD in both for \$95 or a double block newsletter AD for \$170. Please see the attached Sample newsletter AD sheet with our advertisers' Appeal Letter.**

**REMINDER** - Any parishioners who purchase significant items, - a car, furniture, household remodeling/ update items or regularly utilizes a maintenance service (landscape, auto, etc.) or barber/beauty shops could also solicit their vendor(s) to buy a year's AD in the St. Paul's parish newsletter i.e., - our favorite insurance agents, dentists, restaurants, financial services and gasoline stations, etc., etc.. Also any St. Paul's parishioners or our church's vendors especially, or their neighbors who are in business serving the general public could also buy an AD.

The **Business Patrons Appeal Letter** along with its attached "**Sample Ad's Sheet**" can be given or left with your favorite business patron when you solicit the newsletter AD. All we need in addition to their check is their business card to use as their AD unless they have something very close to or about the same size as the card, which they prefer to have copied instead. We can then reduce their business card to fit a typical AD space shown on the "**Sample AD's Sheet**". And please fill in your contact info on the **Appeal Letter** for the business patron's reference should they need it. **Parishioners! - Please return the business patron's business card and check to Attn: St. Paul's Secretary, in any envelope.**

Thank you,

*Together we can make a difference!*

Paul Citerony

for St. Paul's Episcopal Church Vestry

## **Vestry Meeting 3/31/11**

*Present;* Fth. Mark Moore; Vikki Wright; Jerry Kreitzman; Steve Simpson; Georgia Irre; Sarah Richards; Juliet Slavens.

*Absent;* Wendy Wilkey

7:10 meeting called to order. Opening prayer.



**Georgia proposed the motion to accept the minutes for both 2/19/11 and 2/13/11. Steve 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.**

### **No Rectors report**

Fth. Mark feels that the previous reports may not be useful and asked what the vestry would like to see.

Georgia requested some statistics on the number of priest visits per month, including shut-ins, accompanying police etc.

Jerry would like more feedback on interactions with the diocese.

### **Treasurers report** (Alice Mirk)

February income #'s look low because the last Sunday's contributions were deposited in the next month. If you add in those numbers, Feb had an additional \$1,271. That would make us closer to budget.

Snow removal costs seemed high.

\$10,000 was pulled out of the Woodard Shaefer Fund and will be effective in April.

Alice spent some time reorganizing where some of the expenses are posted. She is trying to simplify the paperwork.

We are up to date and current with our bills. The vestry extends our thanks for taking on the treasurer's job.

Ellen Shanks, the secretary, posts the checks and Alice will meet with her Thurs a.m. next week.

**Vicki moved and Jerry seconded to approve the treasurers report. Motion carried.**

### **Junior wardens Report**

Wendy is not here. Frank has looked at the front doors and the threshold plate needs to be replaced. This will need to be done in better weather.

Deacon Kay is leaving the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in May. We would like to plan a special day for her with a dedication and gift. The suggestion was for a deacon's stole with the children's hand prints. Alice will get the handprints and Juliet will sew it all together.



### **Senior Wardens report.** (Vikki)

Vikki will update the vestry binders (many thanks!!)

The Meacham Grant still has to go through 2 meetings; we will hopefully get \$5,000. It will be for advertising for church events and outreach.

The concrete at the south entrance has buckled because it has no expansion seams. It will be fixed-but it doesn't leak!

### **New Business**

The church facilities use policy for weddings was updated and discussed, as were the evaluation sheets. Georgia offered to tweak the wording and will bring them back to Vikki and we will vote on them next time.

We'd like to explore the possibility of a pool of donated items for infants and get them to children in need. Juliet suggested we contact the Watertown hospital as they have a shop supplying baby needs and perhaps they could give the donated items to those in need. They may also know what items are most needed.

**Jerry proposed a motion to explore this idea (listed as 'item one'), Georgia seconded. Motion carried.**

**Jerry proposed a motion to explore 'item two'-the request to run a week long summer school for kids. Sarah seconded. Motion carried.**

### **Outreach Funding.**

Our original plan was to use the interest from the Woodard Shaefer fund to finance outreach. Then we used the golf outing to raise funds. Now we have no funding for outreach.

**Sarah moved that we table the discussion about outreach funding until next meeting. Vikki seconded, motion carried.**

**9.06 pm Steve motioned to adjourn, Georgia seconded, motion carried.**

Juliet A. Slavens 4/13/2011



# Helping Hands

## "Fellowship Opportunities"

### *Coffee Time Hosts & Hostesses*

Each Sunday our parishioner volunteers bring and serve the refreshments after the service. You can bring cheeses, fruit, bagels, or anything else you'd like to have first thing in the morning! (The church provides the coffee. This is an easy way to become involved and meet new exciting people in the church. If you can help, please sign up in Guild Hall or call St. Paul 's at 920-261-1150.

## Choir Notes - By Robert Borkenhagen

Easter Greetings ~

I would like to thank all the choir members for the giving of their time and their hard work during Lent , Holy Week, and then leading us to Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. I'm beginning to think that the Easter Vigil service is now my favorite of the entire year.

The Vestry has approved a proposal to place the organ console on a movable platform which then can be moved closer to the choir and away from the entrance door. Hopefully this will enable us to utilize the organ better with the choir and add to our worship atmosphere. This will require some electrical work and building materials for the platform. An special fund has been started for this project and if you would like to give a memorial gift or donation, please mark your gift to the "Organ Fund."

If anyone is interested in singing with us, or maybe you have some questions with regards to the organ console, please contact me.

Praise Be To God!

Bob Borkenhagen

Organist/Choir Director

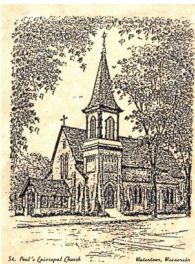
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## Saint Paul's Episcopal Church



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[WWW.SAINTPAULSWATERTOWN.ORG](http://WWW.SAINTPAULSWATERTOWN.ORG)

