



November 2011

From the Rector

For the past several weeks there have been inserts in the bulletin entitled “Feasting on Gratitude.” Each week the writer reflects on the gospel for that Sunday in light of his or her gratitude to God for all that has been given, and is being given. Such gratitude begs the question – what are we thankful for, and what does our thankfulness compel us to do?

A recent gospel text talked about the ways in which the forces that opposed Jesus went to work testing him, trying to trap him in his speech and actions, lying in wait for him to make a mistake. Many of us these days feel tested by forces greater than ourselves which seem to conspire to make us scattered, tense and distracted. Does this sound familiar? Maybe it has something to do with being overloaded, yes, and with needing to seek what is really important in the midst of media-, material-, and life- overload.

How are your relationships with your family and friends? Do you have time to be with them, and to relax, talk, listen and laugh? How is your health these days? Do you need to exercise more and eat less, to ditch the negative, worrisome TV and computer news and get outside in the fresh air? How is your prayer life, and your relationship with God? Do you take time each day to offer up to God

all that worries you, and all the concerns of those you love? Do you take time each day to read the Bible or some spiritual book so that you might listen to what God is saying to you? Are you motivated to help someone else, putting your own situation into perspective? Do you offer thanks for all that God is doing in, through and for you? As St. Paul said, “Think about these things...” and you may find that some things will fall into place after all. Happy Thanksgiving to you and all those you love.

Rev. Barbara

Thanks

- ❖ To José Reyes for preaching on October 16, and to the wardens and staff for making it possible for the rector to take a week off in mid-October.
- ❖ To all who supported Cindy Valentine and her family and friends in the Rays of Hope Walk for Breast Cancer on October 23, raising over \$1,000,000.
- ❖ Many thanks to those who gave to the United Thank Offering. We were able to send \$356.10 to the Ingathering at Convention on October 29.
- ❖ To all who turned out for the Bishop search listening session at St. Paul’s on October 18. There were 70 in attendance, from churches throughout the Pioneer Valley. This is very, very encouraging.
- ❖ Thank you to all who donated candy and trinkets to the Sunday School’s Harvest Festival.

Remember the Homeless This Christmas



Beginning November 20, *The Giving Tree* event will return to St. Paul's Church. This event gives us the opportunity to help some of the forgotten people in our community - homeless men. By purchasing the following gifts, we can help them have a better holiday and a healthier winter:

- * flannel shirts, sweatshirts, and sweaters-- (Large, XL, XXL)
- * hats, gloves, and warm socks
- * toiletries (deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, combs, brushes, disposable razors, shaving cream)

Please bring your **unwrapped gifts** to the church by Sunday, December 11. On that day, during Coffee Hour, gifts will be wrapped and prepared for delivery to Providence Ministries for the Needy.

Thank you for remembering our brothers this Christmas.

This holiday season, may we all remember that when we reach out to others, we reach up to Him.

The Spirit of St. Paul's Committee

More Listening

On Monday, November 21 at 10:30 a.m. and at 7:00 p.m. we will be offering two Listening Sessions on the subject of refurbishing the church, a goal of our Capital Campaign. When we get the money, we will be painting and sprucing up. What changes do we need to make? Come on the 21st and share your thoughts with others. Everyone is welcome.



First Communion Class

St. Paul's second First Communion classes will be held on **Sunday, November 6 at 10:30 am.** Our program is designed for children in grades 1 and 2 but is open to any child who wishes to attend. Classes are usually held from 10:30 – 11:30 am, on the first Sunday of each month. The students will receive their First Holy Communion on the Sunday before Palm Sunday.

Anyone who wishes to participate in the First Communion Classes should fill out a registration form. These forms are located in the Church School Office (Room 4).

If you have any question about the program, please see Joan (Room 1) before or after Church School. Joan can also be reached at 533-4118 or jdal2@verizon.net.



St. Paul's Nursery School

There are still a few openings in our wonderful Nursery School classes. If you know a family who has a 3 or 4 year old child who is looking for a developmental educational experience based on literacy, play-based exploration, and nature-based learning, please have them call St. Paul's Nursery School (532-4890) to schedule a visit or for more information. Our Nursery School offers 2-day, 3-day and 5-day sessions. Our little school offers the very best preschool experience in the area. Please help spread the word!

**Fall Family Festival
Saturday, November 12, 2011
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**



The time is getting closer. We now have 10 outside vendors. This will make for a busy day at our fair. If you could help for a few hours or more, your time would be greatly appreciated.

The **set-up day** will be **Friday, November 11, starting at 10:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m.** Please let me know if you can help, and what time we can expect you. Even if you can only give an hour, your time will be greatly appreciated.

On **Saturday, November 12**, we will be **setting up starting at 8:00 a.m.** and our doors will open for the fair at 9:00 a.m.

The fair will stay set up on **Sunday morning, November 13, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.** Please let me know if you can help clean up on Sunday. Break-down will start at 12:30.

- **St. Paul's Crafters / Raffle Basket makers:** please bring your items to the church on or before Sunday, November 6.
- **Bakers needed for the bake sale:** please bring all baked goods to the church on Friday, November 11, between 10:00 a.m and 5:00 p.m.

If you cannot get to the church to drop off your donations and need something to be picked up, please call the church office (532-5060) or me (533-3381) and leave a message. I will return your call.

Thank you to everyone!

Nancy Romeo

P.S. Remember - you can also help if you come to the fair, and tell or bring a friend.

Men, Men, Men, Men



Need to sharpen up your chili cooking skills before the Big Cook Off at the Fall Festival? Or do you just enjoy cooking with a bunch of other guys? Either way, join us in the Parish Hall Kitchen on November 6th following the 10 a.m. service where we'll be chopping, cutting, browning, and spicing our way to several vats of delicious chili. No experience necessary – speak to Ed Farrell for details.

Sunday School Update



Sunday School students will be filling fruit baskets for the homebound parishioners on Sunday, November 20. If anyone is able to donate apples, bananas, oranges, clementines, pears or individually wrapped candies/mints, it would be greatly appreciated. They may be dropped off on that Sunday.

Please note that there will be **no Sunday School on November 27** due to Thanksgiving break. Also, we are starting to plan for the Christmas Pageant which is on December 18 and will keep everyone informed as things progress.

Sunday, November 6 is a big day for St. Paul's



On Sunday, November 6 we will be baptizing several folks and welcoming them into the Body of Christ, as we also make our Walk to the Altar, our opportunity to present to God our pledges of financial support for the coming year. Because it is All Saints' Sunday, we will also be remembering all those who have passed into eternal life since November 1 of last year and those others we love and cherish. Early Communion class will be taking place in the Sunday School rooms, and there will be a Harvest Festival following the 10 a.m. service in the auditorium. Also, men will be making chili in the kitchen after the 10 a.m. service. We hope to see you here as we celebrate new life, honor the lives that have passed, rejoice in our strength as believers and our commitment to God's work in this time and place.

Thanksgiving Service



This year the churches of Holyoke are combining to have a Thanksgiving Service at St. Peter's Lutheran Church on Jarvis Avenue on Wednesday, November 23 at 7 p.m. This is to be a communion service, and since we are in full communion with the Lutheran Church, our observance of Thanksgiving will be celebrated at St. Peter's on that night with members of the wider community. Everyone is invited.

Party For Somebody Special



And you're invited! For whom? The most direct answer is that we're collecting Christmas toys and games for the children of women incarcerated at the Chicopee jail. Each of them is as special in Jesus Christ as each of us is. We will have invitations available at church on November 6th, 13th, and 20th (and through the church office as well) that specify gender and age of recipients. Our ingathering of gifts will be at a party on November 27th from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at St. Paul's with ice cream, cake, and games. See you there!

Nominations for Offices

Looking ahead to the Annual Meeting and ministry/leadership in the coming years, we have several openings on our vestry that we need for you to consider. We are seeking a treasurer, a clerk (this is the secretary who takes minutes), and a vestry member, as well as one member of our delegation to convention. If you are interested in being part of the vestry or the delegation or know someone who would be good in one of these roles, please let Gina Nelson or Dexter Gess know, as a nominating committee is meeting soon to consider whose names we will put forward for the annual meeting.

The vestry is the lay governing body of the church, with financial responsibilities for the running of the parish. It works with the rector and others to see that the mission and ministries of St. Paul's are running well. The vestry meets for 2 hours a month, and takes a month off in the summer. The delegation are our representatives to our diocesan convention, and this coming year there will be two conventions, one in June to elect a bishop and one in October to do the regular diocesan business. There are meetings to attend ahead of conventions so that we understand what it is we are taking up.

Little Bits . . . * * *
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Centering Prayer Group will be meeting on Saturday, November 5 at 9:30 a.m. in the church. Everyone is welcome to gather, pray together for our concerns and those of the world, and to spend time in God's stillness.

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, November 6, so please turn clocks back one hour the night before, and get an extra hour of sleep.

Youth Group meets--

Sunday, November 6, 5 to 7 p.m.

Saturday, November 12 with the Fall Festival

Sunday, November 20, with the Thanksgiving baskets in the morning, and at 5 to 7 p.m. that evening as well

Confirmation Class meets from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sundays, November 6, 13, and 20 in the usual spot.

Election day, November 8 in Holyoke and neighboring communities. St. Paul's is a polling place

St. Paul's Trustees, who oversee our investments, meet in the library on Thursday, November 17 at 3 p.m.

Kate's Kitchen, our opportunity to make casseroles for hungry people, are due at St. Paul's at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 17th.

Sun newsletter deadline is a bit earlier this month to accommodate the Thanksgiving holiday – Monday, November 14.

Vestry meets Tuesday, November 15 from 6 to 8 in the choir room.

Spirit meets Tuesday, November 29 at 5:30 p.m. at Joan Daly's house.

Shriners tabs – we are still collecting aluminum can tabs and clean foil to send to the Shriners for their important work with disabled children, and a container is in the hallway by the auditorium.

Wanted – a baker for the cake for the Birthday of the Christ Child, Sunday, December 18. Please speak to Rev. Barbara if you would like to bake the cake this year.

Items for the troops—there will be a basket at the back of the church in which you can put toiletries, candy and notes for a troop of service men and women serving in Afghanistan. If you have questions, please speak to Fred Sabbs.

New Prayer Shawls made by members and friends of St. Paul's will be blessed at the services on Sunday, November 27. Instructions for knitting a prayer shawl, and some yarn, are at the back of the church.

Our method of voicing the prayers of the people seems to be working. For the last month, as you have entered the church you have been given, or have taken from a basket, a little piece of paper with a name on it. During the service when we are asked to pray for those on our prayer list, we have been saying out loud the names on these little prayer cards, all at once. God hears each one and sorts them all out, and this truly becomes the prayers of the people for us. Then at the offering, the prayer cards are placed in the plate as it goes by, and the cards are set aside later for the next service. Many thanks for your willingness to try this new thing, and to express to God our concern and love for others.

Mission Team Now Forming



A June 2012 mission trip to the Dominican Republic and Haiti is being planned. Is this something that God is calling you to do? Please attend the first team meeting on Sunday, November 27 at 5:30 p.m. at Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield, to find out if participating is right for you. For further information, please speak with José Reyes.

News about People



George “Pete” Benoit died suddenly at home on October 17 and his memorial service was celebrated at St. Paul’s on Friday, October 28. Pete, who with his wife Ginny, was a devoted member of the 8:00 service and attended just about everything St. Paul’s does, will be missed by all who knew and loved him. We are confident he is resting in peace.

Blessings to Cindy Valentine, Tammy Shafer and thousands of others who participated in the Rays of Hope Walk for Breast Cancer. As Cindy points out, all of the \$1,000,000 raised goes to help those in the Western MA area.

Congratulations to Marilyn Potvin who has become engaged to Andy Anderson, a high school friend now living in Tulsa, OK. We are so happy for both of them.

Blessings to the Everett family as they continue their spiritual journey at St. Jerome’s Church in Holyoke.

Congratulations to Barbara & Norman Roy on the arrival of grandchild #10, Colton Donald Bassingthwaite, in Texas. Everyone had a good visit together in October.

Prayer for St. Paul’s Future



*Almighty God,
bless the Campaign for St. Paul’s Future,
and so draw our hearts to you,
so guide our minds,
so fill our imaginations
and direct our wills,
that we may always use the gifts
you have given us for the good of your
people and for your glory,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

Kate’s Kitchen

*Due at the church by
Thursday, November 17th @ 9:30 a.m.*



Recipe of the Month

American Chop Suey

2 lb. ground beef
3/4 lb. elbow macaroni
2 lbs. canned stewed tomatoes
1 medium onion, chopped
1/2 cup chopped celery
2 Tbs. cooking oil
salt & pepper to taste

Cook the macaroni about 8 minutes and cool. Saute the celery and onion in the oil. Cook the ground beef, loosely, until the red color disappears. Combine all with the tomatoes, season to taste, and simmer until well-blended.

Place in a 9x13 pan, cover with waxed paper and aluminum foil for transportation.

