



St. Paul's Tidings

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Sylvester Street Kinderhook, New York 12106

July—August 2010

Dear St. Paul's Family in Christ,

When Fr. Hunter mentioned to me that he was leaving his parish family that loved him and whom he clearly loved quite deeply, I offered my name as a possible “next step” replacement for that period of time until St. Paul's was in a position to call its next Rector. It was a conversation over lunch at the Spiritual Life Center after Holy Hour back in February, I believe. Now, in mid-May, I am very thankful to have been asked by your Wardens and Vestry to be your “Long-Term Supply-Priest” for the foreseeable future. That title says a great deal about where we are going from this point onward.

First, I am an Associate of the Community of St. Mary, the Convent in Greenwich, NY. I have known the Sisters since the early 1990s because their Guest House in Peekskill was the location of

many of the Chapter Meetings of the Society of the Holy Cross of which I am a Brother as is Fr. Hunter. When, in 2004, my wife Phyllis and I retired to our new home in Cambridge, NY, the Sisters soon found me as their Sunday Morning Celebrant, with periodic Weekday Celebrations. Bishop Love expressed his desire to have me remain in this role when he first became the Ordinary of the Diocese of Albany. I confess my happiness to do just this. However, for this reason I am unable to be available for your 8:00 a.m. Mass hour, and I requested the change to 10:30 a.m. for the second Mass hour. I am enormously thankful to Deacon McDarby for his willingness to be available to communicate the faithful 8:00'ers on the first and third Sundays of the month.

Looking to the life of the parish, I see my role at St. Paul's as being a Priest, plain

and simple. I went to seminary to learn how to bring people to Jesus Christ. I studied Scripture as the Revealed Word of GOD; Liturgy as the way to praise God in the Beauty of His holiness; Theology that I might teach people the Truths shared with us by the Evangelists who walked with Jesus and by the first and second generation of Church Fathers who struggled to uphold the Faith of the Apostles in the midst of dangerous times; Pastoral Care that I might take a knowledge of Scripture, Liturgy, and Theology, meld it with the talents God has given to me as His creature, and be present with people in the events that shape their lives. Stated simply, I see my role as one who assists you in keeping your eye on the ball, which is to prepare yourselves and your spouses, children, friends, and associates for the Kingdom of Heaven.

Further, I do not see myself as *the* administrator. That role belongs to the Leaders who have been raised up from your midst. Your Wardens and Vestry are among the finest I have known in my 36 years of Ordained Ministry. I do expect to lead in the areas of Christian Education, the Liturgy, and Stewardship of the Talents that exist within the hearts and lives of all of our members from the very youngest to those of us who are more venerable [old fogies like me.] Besides, I believe that you need to have emphasis placed upon your sacramental and pastoral needs. I can do that. Parish administration requires the talents of people who comprehend the finer points of finance and business administration. Trust me, as Phyllis will tell you, when she took over the checkbook there was less agita in the house—and, my accountant respectfully requests that I be silent at the annual IRS Festival.

I am attempting to be a good steward of the 20 hours per week that the Wardens and Vestry have requested of me. As things currently stand, I will be in Kinderhook and its environs on Sundays,

Tuesdays, and Thursdays. My schedule for Sundays is fairly straight forward; following a 7:30 a.m. Mass at the Convent, I will drive to St. Paul's for our 10:30 a.m. Mass. Afterwards, I shall call on people in the Great Hall, chatting for however long it seems OK. On Tuesday mornings I will be in the office, available to Susan for things that I can address and to those parishioners who would care to drop in and speak with me. Later in the afternoon, I will be calling on parishioners in their homes. On Thursdays, Bible Study is at 10:00 a.m. with Mass following at 11:15 a.m. At 1:30 p.m., I have New Testament Greek Class at the Convent followed by sermon preparation at my home in Cambridge. I am available by telephone throughout the week. However, plan on leaving a message on my home or mobile phones as I am seldom home, except in the evenings, and the hills of Washington County create bad reception for my mobile phone.

I expect people to call me when an emergency need arises and I invite you to do just that. Remember, hospitals no longer make it easy for clergy to find out whether their parishioners

are patients. Therefore, please call me, or have a family member or a friend do so, should you be hospitalized.

It will probably take a bit of time for us to iron out times and places as I get to know the parish and you get to know me, but that will happen in time. Don't be surprised to find me knocking on your door as time goes along; however, given the amount of time I have available, I will be focusing on those of you who are shut-in or in nursing facilities before I begin to make general calls.

As for our personal life, allow me to tell you a bit about ourselves. Phyllis is an R.N. Having been the Director of Nursing of a 160-bed facility caring for those requiring everything from simple assistance to skilled nursing care, she is now serving in the Hoosick Falls Health Center, enjoying not being in charge. She is a crafts lady, making dolls and critters for craft shows. Together with her mother, aunts, and our daughter and daughter-in-law, she makes a great product that even I like—but, can a guy have a doll in today's world?

I am a musician, a bird-watcher, a handyman, a bicyclist, a reader, and a number of other things, including avocational auto mechanic, having made one Chevy Cavalier out of two junkers. I like to fish and to back-pack, though I haven't had a great deal of time to do these in the last several years.

We have two children, Michael and Kathryn who are married to Danielle and Kevin, respectively. Mike and Dan have 5-year-old Charlotte; Katie and Kevin have 1¼-year-old Nathaniel [Nate]. Mike and Dan are graduates of the University of Maine at Orono. Katie and Kevin are graduates of Boston University. We also have a 20-year-old god-daughter named Cassandra who is a history and theology student at Covenant College in Tennessee.

Phyllis and I are in the process of rebuilding our home in Cambridge. Fortunately, I have the ability to do the kind of work necessary; even more fortunate is that I have made friends up here who can correct my mistakes.

So, who am I, who are we? Simply, Christian people who love the Lord Jesus Christ. May our time together bring more people to Christ.

Faithfully in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Fr. Fred+

The Rev'd. Fr. Frederick L. Curtis, SSC

Contact Information Request

During our parish transition, among many other projects, we want to clean up our parishioner contact information, as well as our birthday and anniversary lists. Not surprisingly, in the process we have found many pieces of conflicting and/or outdated information. In the coming weeks we will be contacting you by telephone or by postal or electronic mail to verify the information in our records. Let us assure you that this information will not be shared publicly and is intended for office and pastoral care use only.

If it would be more convenient for you, please feel free to complete our online form at:

http://stpauls.kinderhookny.us/contact_INFO.htm

Thank you for your help, and may God bless.

—Mark Kelly

Turris fortis mihi Deus

Building & Grounds News

Work continues on the Rectory to make it ready for our new Priest when we find one.

The furnace in McNary Center is in need of replacement. Bids are being taken from several companies. Prices quoted are around \$14,000. Since this is not in the budget, your Vestry will be looking at ways to raise money to pay for the furnace. We already have \$500.00 from an anonymous donor.

—Pat Armstrong
Sr. Warden

Search Process New Rector

As you read this, the Vestry is moving forward in the search process that will result in our calling a new rector to St. Paul's. We have engaged Father Fred Curtis as our long-term supply priest. Fr. Curtis is offering both Sunday and weekday Mass, making pastoral care calls to parishioners, establishing regular office hours, and leading in Christian Education and liturgical matters. Deacon Mark McDarby is offering an 8:00 a.m. Mass on the first and third Sundays of each month.

The Deployment Officer for the Albany Diocese, Beth Strickland, has been extremely helpful to the Vestry as we plan our search. We expect to formalize, distribute, gather, and analyze our parish survey [self-study] during the month of June. Subsequently, we will follow the process recommended by the diocese. This includes advertising the position, reviewing applications and conducting initial interviews, reference and background checking, determination of finalists, second interviews and visits,

interviews with the Bishop, and final decision. We have been advised that this will take a minimum of six months. The Vestry is committed to conducting our search in a manner which is both timely and thoughtful.

Thank you all for your prayers as we take this next step in our journey together as a Parish family. Please never hesitate to contact me with questions or suggestions.

—Patricia Armstrong
Senior Warden

Church School News

A large group of eager parishioners enjoyed the delicious hamburgers, hot dogs, and sides provided by the church school as their Award Day Picnic ended the church school year. Mike Cartwright and Matt Klepeis were our skillful masters of the grill. Many hands helped to make our picnic a success. Dave Palmquest helped to rearrange the tables following the book sale, while I provided the table coverings and decorations. Side dishes were provided by our teachers and me.

Teachers Bonnie Hawley, Matt Klepeis, Andrea Cartwright and Karyn Watt gave a brief re-cap of their student's studies and accomplishments during the past year. A Student Bible NIV was presented to Jennifer Cartwright. This very special gift is given to each fourth grader by St. Paul's. It not only is a treasure for a youngster, but the Student Bible NIV can also be used as a reference throughout adult life. Fr. Curtis will sign Jennifer's Bible. Participation and memory work awards were also presented as well as a token gift from each of the teachers to their students.

We had a wonderful year. We want to thank the parishioners and parents who came and supported our events. The level of success would not be possible without our wonderful church school teachers who are here Sunday after Sunday with inspirational lessons and creative crafts.

—Sylvia Kelly

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH CALENDAR

Kinderhook, New York

758-6271

July 4	Deacon's Mass at 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist at 10:30 a.m.
July 11	Holy Eucharist at 10:30 a.m.
July 18	Deacon's Mass at 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist at 10:30 a.m.
July 25	Holy Eucharist at 10:30 a.m.
August 1	Deacon's Mass at 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist at 10:30 a.m.
August 8	Holy Eucharist at 10:30 a.m.
August 15	Deacon's Mass at 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist at 10:30 a.m.
August 22	Holy Eucharist at 10:30 a.m.
August 29	Holy Eucharist at 10:30 a.m.

Editor's Notes

The *Fall Edition* will cover September, October, and November. All materials must be submitted by **August 3, 2010**.

Send articles by E-mail to thekellys@nycap.rr.com or mail clean typed articles to 19 Timberee Lane, Valatie, NY 12184.

—Shirley Kelly

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Planned Giving at St. Paul's

Walk into your Church home and look around you. You will be surrounded by what your benefactors have left as a heritage for you. Wonderful gifts that teach each generation about our faith and add to the worship of God in the beauty of holiness! We give thanks for those who gave to sustain St. Paul's and to ensure its future for us.

We in turn can do the same for those who come after us through planned giving. You can remember St. Paul's in your will or in a term life policy. Information is available in the McNary Center on planned giving.