



## **ANNUAL REPORTS 2014 ST. PAUL'S CHURCH VERGENNES, VERMONT**

**Our mission at St. Paul's is to be a community reflecting and demonstrating God's compassion and love to all through prayer, education and outreach.**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

2. About the Annual Meeting  
Elections
3. Parish Personnel and Committees 2014
4. Minutes of the Annual Meeting
5. Report from the Rector
6. Senior Warden Report
7. Junior Warden Report  
  
Flower Guild
8. Choir  
Epistle  
SiSP
9. Stewardship
10. Outreach
11. Boys and Girls clubs  
Memorial Day  
Sunday School
12. Financial Reports

### ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING

All those who have an active interest in the life of St. Paul's are more than welcome to participate in the annual meeting. Everyone who is present with us strengthens our fellowship. Voting at the annual meeting is limited according to the Church Canon.

Diocese of Vermont: Canon 13

Those who are communicants in good standing and are enrolled on the canonical register of the Parish are eligible to vote in the annual meeting. Similarly, delegates to various offices within the church also need to be Communicants in good standing. Communicants in good standing are defined by the Canons as:

The Episcopal Church: Canon 17

The Canons (regulations by which the church is governed) of the National Church indicate that all whose Baptisms have been duly recorded in this Church are members thereof, that members sixteen years or older are to be considered adult members. All communicants of this Church, who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless good cause prevent, and have been faithful in working, praying and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God, are to be considered communicants in good standing.

The Diocesan Canon III, Canon 13.6

Those persons who are entitled to vote in a Parish meeting are defined as follows: those persons who are communicants in good standing and are enrolled upon the canonical register of the Parish or Mission in which they habitually worship.

### ELECTIONS TO TAKE PLACE AT ANNUAL MEETING

January 18, 2015

Three Vestry members to each serve a three-year term (until January 2018)

Three delegates to Diocesan Convention

Three alternate delegates to Diocesan Convention

## PARISH PERSONNEL & COMMITTEES 2014

<b>Rector</b>	The Rev. Alan Kittelson
<b>Senior Warden</b>	Tim Earle
<b>Junior Warden</b>	Marcia Merryman-Means
<b>The Vestry</b>	
<i>Term Ending January 2015</i>	Tim Earle, Mary Beth Hamilton, Lee Martel
<i>Term Ending January 2016</i>	Sue Berkenbush, Madelaine Calise, Marcia Merryman-Means
<i>Term Ending January 2017</i>	Sarah Cowan, Cricket Laidman, Judy Langeway
<b>Clerk of the Vestry</b>	Lenore Morse
<b>Treasurer</b>	John Stroup
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	George Chauvin
<b>Designated Funds Treasurer</b>	John Stroup
<b>Delegates to Diocesan Convention</b>	Sarah Cowan, Bob Laidman, Bo Price
<b>Alternates to Diocesan Convention</b>	Sue Berkenbush, Laurie Earle, Judy Langeway
<b>Acolytes</b>	Alisdair Chauvin, Catie Macauley, Noah Macauley, Clarinda McAllister
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Mary Gordon, Carol Knauss
<b>Audit Committee</b>	George Chauvin, Sarah Cowan, Nate Guilmette
<b>Boys' and Girls' Club</b>	Lenore Morse, Chair, Sue Berkenbush, Madelaine Calise, Laurie Earle, Mary Gordon, Cricket Laidman, Judy Langeway, Margaret Lowe, Judy Martel, Diane Merrill, Bo Price, Sarah Stroup, Judy Woods
<b>Chalice Bearers</b>	Tim Earle, Carol Knauss, Judy Langeway
<b>Choir</b>	Madelaine Calise, Greg Hamilton, Mary Beth Hamilton, Bonnie Huizenga, Alan Kittelson, Bob & Cricket Laidman, Nancy Lennox, Bo Price, Jona Tierney
<b>Counters</b>	Laurie Earle, Mary Gordon, Nate Guilmette, Kim Hatgen, Carol Knauss, Cricket Laidman, Steve Lowe, Lenore Morse
<b>E.C.C.R.T Representatives</b> <i>(Ecumenical Community Crisis Response Team)</i>	Alan Kittelson, Margaret Lowe, Steve Lowe,
<b>Environmental Steward</b>	Steve Lowe
<b><i>St. Paul's Epistle</i> (newsletter)</b>	Penny Goodkind, Alan Kittelson, Judy Martel, Lee Martel,
<b>Finance Committee</b>	George Chauvin, Sarah Cowan, Nate Guilmette, John Stroup
<b>Flower Guild</b>	Lenore Morse, chair, Rebecca Chauvin, Mary Gordon, Kim Hatgen, Carol Knauss, Mary Beth Hamilton, Diane Merrill, Anne Sevee
<b>Food Shelf Volunteers</b>	Mary Gordon, Alan Kittelson, Judy & Lee Martel, Lenore Morse, Judy Langeway
<b>Hospitality Coordinator</b>	Cricket Laidman

<b>Lectors</b>	Sue Berkenbush, Tim Earle, Nan Guilmette, Bob Laidman, Steve Lowe, Pam Macauley, Catie Macauley, Sarah Stroup
<b>Memorial Day Concession Stand</b>	Mary Cassidy, Bonnie Huizenga
<b>Organist &amp; Choir Director</b>	Judy Woods
<b>Assistant Organist</b>	Carol Knauss
<b>Pastoral Care &amp; Outreach Committee</b>	Laurie Earle, Chair, (January-June) Mary Gordon, Margaret Lowe, Lee & Judy Martel, Marcia Merryman-Means, Lenore Morse, Bo Price
<b>Sexton</b>	Beth McAllister
<b>Stewardship Committee</b>	Co-chairs: Bob Laidman and Bo Price, Madelaine Calise, Sarah Cowan, Chris Hale
<b>Sunday School Teachers</b>	Sarah Stroup, Chair, Madelaine Calise, Rebecca & George Chauvin, Nan & Nate Guilmette, Sarah & Chris Hale, Margaret Lowe, Lenore Morse, Pam & Bob Macauley, Bo Price, Sarah & John Stroup
<b>Welcomers</b>	Sue Berkenbush, Mary Gordon, Margaret Lowe, Steve Lowe, Lee Martel, Lenore Morse

## **Minutes of the Annual Meeting**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Vergennes  
January 19, 2014

Present: Susan Berkenbush, George Chauvin, Rebecca Chauvin, Sarah Cowan, Tim Earle, Mary Gordon, Nan Guilmette, Greg Hamilton, Mary B. Hamilton, Alan Kittelson, Carol Knauss, Bob Laidman, "Cricket" Helen Laidman, Judy Langeway, Margaret Lowe, Stephen Lowe, Judy Martel, Lee Martel, Marcia M. Means, Lenore Morse, John Stroup, Sarah Stroup.

The Rev. Alan Kittelson called the meeting to order at 11:25 a.m. and offered the opening prayers. Senior Warden Tim Earle distributed copies of the 2013 Annual Report, and The Rev. Kittelson asked everyone present to sign the circulating attendance sheet. Next, he requested comments and a motion regarding the January 20, 2013 Annual Meeting minutes on pp. 4-6. John Stroup made the motion to accept the 2013 Annual Meeting minutes; the motion was seconded by Mary Beth Hamilton and passed unanimously.

The Rev. Kittelson announced elections for the vestry and the convention delegates and alternates, noting that a Deanery representative was no longer needed because of the Diocesan change to Mission Districts. Further, he thanked retiring vestry members for their services as follows: George Chauvin—six years; Nan Guilmette—one year; and Bo Price—three years. For the Nominating Committee, Nan Guilmette nominated Sarah Cowan, Cricket Laidman, and Judy Langeway, all for three-year terms on the vestry. With no further nominations, John Stroup made the motion to close the nominations and cast one ballot to elect the three nominated; the motion was seconded by Tim Earle and passed unanimously.

The Rev. Kittelson announced that the Vermont Diocesan Convention would be held October 31 and November 1, 2014. Nan Guilmette nominated the following as delegates to the Diocesan Convention: Sarah Cowan, Bob Laidman, and Bo Price. With no further nominations, Stephen Lowe made the motion to close the nominations and cast one ballot in favor of the three nominees; the motion was seconded by Margaret Lowe and passed unanimously. Finally, Nan Guilmette nominated the following as alternates to the Diocesan Convention: Sue Berkenbush, Laurie Earle, and Judy Langeway. With no further nominations, Stephen Lowe made the motion to close the nominations and cast one ballot in favor of the three nominees; the motion was seconded by Tim Earle and passed unanimously.

The Rev. Alan Kittelson thanked parishioners listed on pages three and four of the Annual Meeting Reports 2013, who served in so many capacities for the benefit of the parish. Next, The Rev. Kittelson announced that due to health reasons Diane Rooney had written to withdraw from serving St. Paul's and as Postulant to the Diaconate. In addition, The Rev. Kittelson reported that the vestry had approved the budget for 2014 at its January meeting.

Treasurer John Stroup distributed copies of the FY 2014 budget and indicated an increase of 1% in overall income, mostly from pledges. Further, he noted continuing receipt of funds from VTel for use of St. Paul's tower, as noted on line #1408. Line #1406-2 indicates use of \$10,000 from the Swift Fund principle and on line #1406-1, relevant loss of dividends. Page two identifies major cuts to the budget. Some are not long term and will be covered by Designated Funds, but other budget items represent substantial cuts required to maintain a balanced budget. Margaret Lowe asked if program cuts were involved. John replied affirmatively but indicated some monies may be drawn from Designated Funds when needed: for example, Sunday School funding from the Youth Ministry Fund. Regarding outreach, Bo Price said the vestry hoped parishioners would be able to raise \$2,000 to maintain, in part, previous donations. Discussion followed regarding Memorial Day fundraising. John Stroup added that pledges during the past five years have been generous but it will be very difficult to maintain the percentage increase. Judy Langeway suggested checking the Diocesan website regarding Stirrings of the Spirit activities. Tim Earle asked parishioners to attend vestry meetings and propose suggestions. Bo Price added that participation on several committees—education, liturgy, outreach, etc.—would be welcomed. Sarah Cowan inquired about VTel progress. Tim Earle reported that VTel had installed a platform to the back and left of the church but hadn't returned recently. He said there might be budgetary complications for VTel. The Rev. Alan Kittelson stated that VTel has measured the louvers for replacement.

Sarah Cowan reported that \$74,000 had been collected from 2013 pledges as income. Further, Sarah noted the difference between the operating budget report and the Stewardship Committee report was due to 2014 pledge monies paid before January 1, 2014. Overall, pledges are up 11%. Sarah observed that time and talents contributed are also very important to the welfare of the parish. Charts and graphs on pages nine and ten of the 2013 Annual Report indicate that 2014 pledgers have not reached the 2013 level. Sarah suggested that growth in numbers is truly needed and is the responsibility of all. For 2014, Bo Price and Bob Laidman have agreed to chair the Stewardship Committee as Sarah moves to the vestry. Nan Guilmette questioned figures regarding pledges for 2014 and John Stroup indicated line 1404-3 and line 1404-5 should be added.

Cricket Laidman asked about the page ten statistics, and Bob Laidman explained the following points: 30 current pledges total \$69,000; four of the 2013 pledging parishioners are deceased; six pledges from 2013 have not yet responded; and, other numbers remain the same. John Stroup thanked the Stewardship Committee for their substantial efforts, and Tim added thanks to John for an excellent job of preparing the 2014 budget. Nan Guilmette asked about turning the heat down in the church to save on fuel. Tim indicated that constraints included limits on lower temperatures in the parish hall and in the church due to the organ. Cricket Laidman remarked that she sets the thermostat for 55 degrees during the week and 68 degrees for Sunday worship services. Tim added that an old heating system is also a problem. Finally, Bob Laidman expressed thanks to Judy Martel for the excellent job in preparing the 2013 Annual Report. With no further business to address, Stephen Lowe made the motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Greg Hamilton and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m. and in conclusion the Litany of Thanksgiving for a Church was prayed.

Respectfully submitted  
Lenore Morse, Clerk

### **REPORT FROM THE RECTOR**

Throughout the pages that surround my words here you can read a testament of the life that is St. Paul's, Vergennes. Three and a half years ago we celebrated 200 years since the formation of this parish. Oh! I've learned something recently. There was a recess quite early in our history when this congregation just sort of disbanded for a period of years. So we may have been getting ahead of ourselves a bit when we claimed a full bicentennial so recently.

I want to think that during that inactive period perhaps there was some fervent prayer that really was keeping the place alive. One of my fears around congregational life is recognizing how very easy it is to lapse into inactivity. Especially with St. Paul as our patron we around here should listen up when he reminds us that it takes all parts of the body. Yes, it does. It's really an invitation to *actually be and function as* the part of the body that you are. This kind of participation allows for a full living organism, an effective body. The mission statement of St. Paul's Church appears almost every week on the cover of the Sunday leaflet. It reads, "Our mission at St. Paul's is to be a community reflecting and demonstrating God's compassion and love to all through prayer, education, and outreach." Worthy words to be shared as a common goal.

Six members of our parish community died during 2014.

Ferg Alleman in January  
William Hanson in March  
Martha Clark in April  
Emily (Lee) Garrison in April  
Loraine Hoag in July  
Mary (Bootsie) Morris in December

*Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them.*

There were no baptisms, confirmations, receptions, or inward transfers so we count a loss of 6 people for the year. However over recent months St. Paul's has experienced the presence of a number of new worshippers. Welcome to them! Transfers of their memberships have not yet taken place so I hope those numbers can be added in next year's account. And of course welcome to others as well who may wish to explore what goes on here and to hear the Good News of God in Christ.

The following liturgies were offered to the glory of God during 2014:

- 103 Sunday celebrations of Holy Eucharist
- 18 Weekday celebrations of Holy Eucharist
  - 1 Proper Liturgy of Good Friday
- 11 Services of Morning Prayer
  - 1 Service of the Noonday office
- 9 Services of Compline
  - 1 Renewal of Marriage Vows
- 34 Private Communion with Anointing for Healing
- 11 Additional Occasions of Anointing for Healing
  - 2 Funerals and Committals: William Hanson and Martha Clark
  - 1 Committal: Loraine Hoag

The "Average Sunday Attendance" is a number required to be sent annually to both diocesan and national church offices. Here are the figures for recent years and up to the present moment:

- In 2009 the A.S.A. was 57.4 people. (Total attendance: 2,986 over 52 Sundays)
- In 2010 the A.S.A. was 51.8 people. (Total attendance: 2,695 over 52 Sundays)
- In 2011 the A.S.A. was 51.5 people. (Total attendance: 2,679 over 52 Sundays)
- In 2012 the A.S.A. was 47.0 people. (Total attendance: 2,491 over 53 Sundays)
- In 2013 the A.S.A. was 43.3 people. (Total attendance: 2,254 over 52 Sundays)
- In 2014 the A.S.A. was 47.5 people. (Total attendance: 2,471 over 52 Sundays)

Mercifully the ongoing decline has begun to reverse and attendance now has surpassed the level of the past two years. That is heartening. Regular participation in the sacramental life of the church honors God, brings new life, and is an important component in building Christian community. Wandering sheep everywhere are invited to return to the flock.

Beyond the Sunday figures, 812 people attended the various weekday services. Adding that number to the Sunday attendance makes a total attendance of 3,283 for the year. (For comparison, total in 2013 was 2,861)

The day of St. Mary Magdalene in July marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood. When you say "25 years" it doesn't sound like much; indeed that span passes by quickly. However when it's expressed as "a quarter of a century" it's a bit more sobering. Two decades plus is a good stretch and one can't help but wonder what of worth has gone on in that timeframe. Retrospect is potentially filled with regret if you dwell only on lost opportunities. But the story's usually bigger and there are also the times filled with glory when you ran with the Good News. We've just heard once again that when the birth of our Savior Christ was announced "the glory of the Lord shone around." That's the light we're invited to bask in. Pray that we might honor it.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Alan L. Kittelson

### **SENIOR WARDEN REPORT**

So another year has passed in the life of St. Paul's parish. Where have we been? Where are we going? And what on earth just happened? While some events were pleasantly regular and in that way uneventful other changes to our routine were a pleasant break for our community. In an effort to stimulate some growth and vigor within our parish the Vestry voted to undertake the Strategic Investment In Sacred Spaces (SISP) program. Several members of our congregation are working on areas of our parish's history within the community, a valuation of our physical assets, and the value of St. Paul's presence in Vergennes and Addison County. The results, even in their preliminary form, are surprising! I hope we can get more people involved with this project as it progresses. It is a two-year process, after all. The completion of the SISP program will also open new financing options for us so the vestry has decided to put the rebuilding of the front steps on a temporary hold in hopes of having a much reduced financial burden in the end. We have added some new young talent to the lector pool. I am encouraged that we have some young people who are old enough to take on the responsibility. To think that more are coming warms my heart!

Let us not forget the digression from the same old, boring, guilt-inducing pledge campaign. This year we walked the way together through the Walking The Way stewardship series that invited members of the congregation to lead us through a series of homilies geared toward stewardship. Each person had a different perspective; a different lesson to impart. We were invited to think of our stewardship responsibilities in a different way each week. The program was a novel change to a process many of us dread.

We are still a community that struggles to grow; struggles to be a strong presence in our community; struggles to be united. I believe that, in many ways, this is representative of the “old line” faith communities and this part of the country in general. The five New England states are at the bottom of the list of charitable donation statistics. Literally occupying the last five spots in a 2012 article published in “Philanthropy Today”. Vermont ranked 48<sup>th</sup>. Giving a mere 2.8% of our “discretionary” income, I don’t think we, as a parish, do a good job of breaking out of that stereotype. It speaks volumes about our priorities that our pledging units have decreased even though the average pledge has increased. While this past year has been the first full year of payments by VTEL for the use of our bell tower this contract has not compensated for the loss of some long term, dedicated, pledging members of our community over the past year. I suppose the lesson is that the answer to our financial needs will not come from outside of our community of faith. It must come from within. I am encouraged that a dedicated group is willing to wrestle with the tough questions of finances and budgets; find new pathways for us to walk down together, and keep St. Paul’s a vibrant and loving community.

As always, keep in touch with your vestry. We depend on hearing from you about your concerns, suggestions or offers of help on one of the areas of need. The new year is full of promise. Let’s share the work and the joy!

Sincerely,  
Timothy S. Earle, Sr. Warden

#### **JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT 2014**

We have checked several items off our to-do list this past year. As usual, Lee Martel worked behind the scenes to take care of a leak under the sink in the parish hall and to repair the lock on the front door of the rectory. We also arranged with Simplex Grinnell for the yearly fire alarm system inspection. Keith Carrig donated a new electric lawn mower to the church, supported by a lithium battery. Many thanks, Keith!

The church directory has finally been updated, printed, and made available to parishioners. Thanks to Cricket for answering lingering questions and pulling together the final list.

Yankee Steeplejack Co. of Harvard, Mass., spent the last week of June putting up new shutters in the church tower. In July a crew of six men from Aerial Wireless Services arrived to install cables and the remaining equipment for the VTel project. In August shatterproof glass was installed by Portland Glass in one of the front doors of the church, stemming from an accident caused by the steeplejack. A team of three from VTel completed work on the antennae in the church tower. Also over the summer, Lockrows installed a new office photocopier.

We worked over the first half of 2014 on collecting bids to replace/repair the front steps to the church. Once we became involved in Strategic Investment in Sacred Places, however, it became clear to us that we need to regroup. In September, we decided to put on hold the idea of applying for the Historic Preservation Grant from the State of Vermont. The grant, it transpired, would not cover such improvements as lighting within the steps. We opted to take advantage of a matching grant from Vermont Preservation Trust to have a buildings assessment done and will proceed after the assessment to see what grants may help us do the necessary work.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marcia Merryman-Means, Junior Warden

#### **FLOWER GUILD 2014**

During 2014, the members of the Flower Guild arranged the altar flowers and, except for Feast Days, supplied the flowers as well. Thanks also for generous gifts from parishioners for the Easter and Christmas flowers as well as the wreaths and tree. Expenses for 2014 listed in the December Finance Report for both flowers and altar supplies (line item #1726) were \$763.19, and under Designated Funds for the Holiday Flowers Fund (line item #3460-2), as of December 2014, parishioners gave \$901 for Easter and Christmas flowers. Members of the Flower Guild this year were Rebecca Chauvin, Mary Gordon, Mary Beth Hamilton, Kim Hatgen, Carol Knauss, Diane Merrill, Lenore Morse, and Anne Sevee. Anyone interested in serving on the Flower Guild or donating flowers for special memorials or celebrations, please call Lenore Morse (870-7020 or 802-578-7225).

## **CHOIR**

Each Sunday the choir seeks to enhance our worship with hymns and anthems. They correspond to the scripture readings as well as the season of the year. Our members include Bob, Alan, Greg, Jona, Madelaine, Cricket, Bo, Bonnie and Mary Beth. We warmly welcome our newest member, Nancy Lennox.

During the holiday season the choir along with Margaret Lowe was able to visit Marion Davis. Her niece and a neighbor girl joined in carol singing and a blessing was had by all.

It is also a blessing to see the youth in our parish using their musical gifts. On Easter morning, Alisdair Chauvin reminded us of God's Amazing Grace on the piano. Catie Macauley joined in our worship on her viola at the outdoor service at the end of the summer. And as I complete this writing, Maddie Stroup concluded the pageant with Silent Night.

Thank you to Cricket Laidman who is working on a spreadsheet to help organize our choir anthems. Also thanks to Carol, Bob, George and John who have accompanied this year.

The choir meets for practice on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 in the parish hall. All are welcome!

Judy Woods

## **ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE**

The *Epistle* is published once a month. The staff is Lee and Judy Martel, Penelope Goodkind, and Alan Kittelson.. Pictures and contributions are welcome and will be printed as space allows. If you have information that would be of interest to the parish, please let us know:

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Martel, [jerm@gmavt.net](mailto:jerm@gmavt.net).

## **SiSP – STRATEGIC INVESTMENT IN SACRED PLACES, 2014**

### OVERVIEW:

Partners for Sacred Places is a national not-for-profit organization that works with places of worship throughout the United States, helping them to evaluate their assets—buildings, programs, people etc. and how best to use those assets, in small and large ways. The actual program, Strategic Investment in Sacred Places (SiSP) brings together Partners for Sacred Places, the two denominational sponsors (Episcopal Diocese of Vermont and Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ), and the Preservation Trust of Vermont. Churches are being challenged to become more engaged in their communities, sometimes by partnering with other community efforts; sometimes actually re-envisioning their buildings and space for a community project, and working with secular as well as ecumenical community partners. St. Paul's is in a good position to be part of these types of efforts, and already partners through Outreach in ecumenical efforts, in our food ministries, for example. We anticipate participation in this two-year program will benefit St. Paul's in terms of overall strategic planning as well.

Accomplishments and ongoing study in 2014 included:

- Initial individual meeting at St. Paul's with SiSP team, August 15, included walking the grounds and buildings and informal discussions on the overall program. We were also introduced to the Rev. Jim Littrell, advisor/liaison between our committee and SiSP.
- Two daylong training sessions/workshops, September 6 (Barre) and December 13 (Montpelier). Included exercises on how to engage with civic leaders vis a vis St. Paul's, how to assess public value, asset mapping, finding our strengths, networking and use of the SiSP set of guidelines.
- Application and acceptance of a \$2800 grant from the diocese to offset our fee to SiSP along with additional expenses such as travel and printing, etc.
- Establishing our 'Public Value' and inputting this information on the SiSP database. This involved establishing a dollar amount for all our community outreach. For example, volunteer hours and rental cost to organizations for use of parish hall.
- Extensive historic research of our artifacts and gifts to St. Paul's and the families' association within the community beginning in the early 1800's to the present.

Core committee: Bo Price (point person), Sarah Cowan, Alan Kittelson, Madelaine Calise, Judy Langeway.

History, Our 'Story:' Bo Price, assisted by Judy Langeway, Bonnie Huizinga, Mary Cassidy, Lenore Morse and Madelaine Calise.

Grants & Ad Hoc members: John and Sarah Stroup, Sue Berkenbush

## **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT - 2014**

In early spring of 2014, the Stewardship Committee was fortunate enough to have participated in a workshop, entitled "Walking the Way" which was sponsored by The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS). Members of the committee then spent a day in July with Angie Emerson, our Diocesan Canon for Stewardship Development, engaging the materials in a thoughtful and reflective way. We decided to bring the program to our congregation for the fall Stewardship campaign. Our committee got busy in September working out the logistics and mailings and also gathering volunteers who ended up making an amazing series of sharing for our congregation.

Walking the Way was a new and different stewardship campaign as compared to past years. Here are the differences:

- **Focus:** This series had more of an inward focus than in past years. For the past couple of years, the Vestry has developed goals for our church in which we asked for your support. The goals in recent years have been to support our important ministries such as outreach, education, and worship, as well as our own financial care. Our congregation has been very generous in offering support in these areas. The Walking the Way series, on the other hand, had more of an inward focus. It asked us to look inward and to reflect on giving in the context of our faith. What does it mean to be a steward? What is the relationship we have with God and the act of giving? What does it mean to give intentionally? We learned the phrase "intentional practice of giving" as another way of saying "pledge." The intentional practice of giving implied something that went beyond just a pledge card. This campaign gave us an opportunity to examine giving in the context of a spiritual practice.
- **Communal experience:** This Stewardship campaign was a communal experience. In the past, members of the Stewardship Committee and Vestry have met with individuals and families, separately, with our brochure and pledge packet in hand; asking for their support and feedback regarding life at St. Paul's. This time we met during the church service as a group, listening to individuals from the congregation read reflections about the Gospel readings as well as their responses to questions. Then we all had the opportunity to respond with our own comments and thoughts. These reflections took place in lieu of a traditional sermon. For six Sundays we had an opportunity to share, participate and examine, both individually, and as a group. We also created our own Prayers of the People, specific to our church and community, with the response "As we walk the way." And did we mention Facebook? We had an online communal experience as well. Each Sunday, the reflections were posted on our Facebook page to make them available to those people who were unable to make a specific Sunday. After the 6 Sundays we asked for feedback via an online survey, and via printed surveys forms.
- **Ministry Sunday:** We celebrated time and talent separately on a Ministry Sunday. We wanted to acknowledge all the work and committees and volunteers that make up the ministries at St. Paul's and to ask for the congregation's continued support in these areas. 43 individuals signed up for a variety of ministries. We added an "O" option this year for "optional" which meant that someone could participate in a ministry on occasion, as time allowed, or as a way to try something out.
- **Children's Sunday:** We wanted to make sure the Sunday School participated in Walking the Way along with everyone else. We had a special Sunday devoted to them making gifts for the congregation and singing "Tis A Gift To Be Simple."
- **Ingathering/Potluck:** Although we often celebrate the end of the Stewardship series with a potluck, this year the series tied in the blessing of the pledge cards during the service with the theme of Walking the Way. We had a lot of participation and received the bulk of the pledges at this time, which made it easier for the Stewardship Committee to wrap up our series and get out our thanks to everyone! We have received 28 monetary pledges as of the end of December 2014.

The Walking the Way series really was an opportunity to explore how the practice of intentional giving deepens our walk with Christ and supports life-giving ministries to our community and beyond.

Special thanks go the following:

- The Reader/Reflectors who have led us in insight and discussion: Fr. Alan Kittelson, Sarah Stroup, Steve Lowe, Tim Earle, Chris Hale, and Bob Macauley.
- Those who have helped to create and read the Prayers of the People for this series: Laurie Earle, Judy Martel, Carol Knauss, Bob Laidman, Bo Price, Catie Macauley, Sarah Cowan.
- The Sunday school for their special gifts and singing.
- Judy Woods for her help in picking out music to go with the series plus helping with the music in the children's service.
- The Potluck crew (Mary Cassidy etc.)
- The Banner-creators: Madelaine Calise and Bo Price
- Organizers: The Stewardship Committee (Bob Laidman, Bo Price, Sarah Cowan, Madelaine Calise, Chris Hale, and Fr. Alan Kittelson). Thanks to everyone for their help with the print materials, mailings, Facebook and St. Paul's website updates, meetings and webinars, and general support and efforts.
- Angie Emerson for her guidance in helping us to bring the TENS (The Episcopal Network for Stewardship) Walking The Way series to St. Paul's.

#### **OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT**

Due to budget changes for 2014, the committee revised the disbursement amounts downward as noted in the list below.

In 2013 the committee directed our treasurer to automatically send out the Vergennes Food Shelf contributions in the spring and in the fall each year without asking for committee approval each time. At the July 2014 meeting, it was agreed to direct the treasurer to automatically send out all other listed contributions every year on or after July 15 at his discretion. Amounts will continue as listed below.

- Episcopal Relief and Development - \$500
- Addison County Open Door Clinic - \$400
- Boys and Girls Club of Vergennes - \$400
- John Graham Shelter - \$200
- Doctors Without Borders - \$100
- Table of Grace - \$200
- 2013 Back-to-School Shop - \$100.
- American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem - \$ raised by sales of Cherry jam will go to this & the Outreach Committee will match that amount.
- Vergennes Food Shelf - \$500 (automatic - twice a year in spring and fall)

The Outreach committee will review all recipients and amounts yearly at the January and April meetings. Any changes will be communicated to the treasurer by the chairperson after the April meeting. Otherwise the treasurer will continue to use this list.

Besides monetary contributions, 3-4 parishioners regularly volunteer at the monthly Table of Grace community meal. A group of 8 (or was it 10?) cooked the July 25 meal.

Committee members also continue to provide snacks weekly for the Boys and Girls Club after school program.

In June, Laurie indicated that she would be unable to continue as chair beyond the quarterly meeting in July. As of this writing, no one has stepped forward to be chairperson for the Outreach committee.

December 14th Christmas baskets: In addition to the good folks at the Vergennes Residential Care Home, there were a number of parishioners that received baskets.

## **BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS**

Since September 2012, the women of St. Paul's have supported the Boys and Girls Club of Vergennes by bringing weekly snacks for the children during the school year. Although we focus on healthy snacks we of course bake cookies etc. and bring fruits in season. With approximately thirty youngsters attending the afternoon session from September to June, this adds up to many batches of cookies and the club has been most appreciative of our contributions. Members of the St. Paul's snack crew are as follows: Sue Berkenbush, Madelaine Calise, Laurie Earle, Mary Gordon, Cricket Laidman, Judy Langeway, Margaret Lowe, Judy Martel, Diane Merrill, Lenore Morse, Bo Price, Sarah Stroup, and Judy Woods. Anyone interested in helping, please call Lenore (802-578-7225 or 870-7020).

## **MEMORIAL DAY**

The Memorial Day concession brought in \$1800, not as much as in previous years, but still a good day's work. Plan to help next year...it's lots of fun, but it takes a lot of people to have the day run smoothly..

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Our Sunday school program is very active, as are our children! We have almost twenty children whose families regularly attend St. Paul's, and we are pleased to welcome a number of parishioner grandchildren and visitors.

We have built a steady rhythm in Sunday school. Each week, one of a half-dozen teaching teams leads the lesson while another volunteer heads up care for the toddlers. We inaugurate each lesson with a lighting of the altar candles and a recitation of the Lord's Prayer. After joining "big church" at the Peace, the kids enjoying reporting on their lesson to the congregation. The older children ably serve as acolytes and readers, a testament to Sunday school of years past. For our elementary-school age children and toddlers, we use the One Room Sunday School series for our curriculum.

We ended 2014 with a happy celebration of the Christmas season. Beth and Judy McAllister hosted an active table of crafts at the Vergennes Holiday Stroll. We tried out a new model for the Christmas pageant - hosting it on December 21 during the service rather than Christmas Eve. If you have any feedback on this new model, please let me know.

We are always looking for new volunteers for baby care or new ideas for integrating our young people into the full life of the Church. Please email me at [sarahsnip@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahsnip@hotmail.com) if you have any suggestions or feedback!

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Stroup

**Saint Paul's Vergennes Finance Report for December 31, 2014 - Year End Report**

**Consolidated General Checking, Designated, ECW and Swift Accounts**

<b>INCOME</b>			
<b>NORMAL OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>2014 Year to Date</b>	<b>2014 Budget</b>	<b>%</b>
1404-1 Anonymous Plate Cash	\$ 3,200.48	\$ 1,800.00	178%
1404-2 Holy Day Offerings	\$ 895.00	\$ 2,500.00	36%
1404-3 Pledge Current Year	\$ 64,128.50	\$ 62,000.00	103%
1404-4 Pledge Prior Year	\$ 3,512.00	\$ 2,000.00	176%
1404-5 Pledge Next Year	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 6,500.00	62%
1406-1 Unit Trust Fund Endowment Dividend	\$ 14,114.59	\$ 14,000.00	101%
1406-2 Unit Trust Fund Endowment Principle	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,511.56	95%
1406-3 Designated Funds Transfers	\$ 4,055.04	\$ 3,900.00	104%
1408 Use of Building Income	\$ 375.00	\$ 750.00	50%
1408 VTEL	\$ 8,483.00	\$ 8,400.00	101%
1409 Fundraising	\$ 2,004.72	\$ 2,200.00	91%
1410 Unexpected Undesignated Gifts	\$ 2,680.00	\$ 1,000.00	268%
1411 Grants	\$ 2,800.00	\$ -	0%
1412 Miscellaneous Income	\$ -	\$ 100.00	0%
1413 General Checking Interest Earned	\$ 1.10	\$ 1.00	110%
1430-1 Donor Designated For Normal Operations	\$ 2.00	\$ 10.00	20%
1430-2 Donor Designated For Flowers	\$ 901.00	\$ 750.00	120%
<b>Normal Operating Income Total</b>	<b>\$ 121,152.43</b>	<b>\$ 116,422.56</b>	<b>104%</b>
<b>NON OPERATION INCOME</b>			
3410 Gifts to Capital Improvements	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	0%
3412 Hanson Fund Interest	\$ 473.36	\$ 475.00	100%
3413 Property Improvement Fund Interest	\$ 708.33	\$ 675.00	105%
3414 Wills Fund Interest	\$ 534.46	\$ 525.00	102%
3415 Fund Raising for Capital Improvements	\$ -	\$ -	0%
3445 Gifts for Memorial Fund	\$ -		0%
3460-1 Special Offerings	\$ 1,355.00	\$ 500.00	271%
3460-2 Holiday / Easter Flowers Fund	\$ -	\$ -	0%
3470 Donations to ECW	\$ -	\$ -	0%
3480 UTO Fund	\$ -	\$ -	0%
3490 Designated Accounts Interest	\$ 7.54	\$ 10.00	75%
<b>NON OPERATION TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 8,078.69</b>	<b>\$ 2,185.00</b>	<b>370%</b>
Grants from the Diocese of Vermont	\$ -	\$ -	0%
<b>TOTAL ALL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 129,231.12</b>	<b>\$ 118,607.56</b>	<b>109%</b>

<b>Page 2 December 2014 Finance Report</b>			
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>			
<b>DIocese AND WORK OUTSIDE PARISH</b>	<b>2014 Year to Date</b>	<b>2014 Budget</b>	<b>%</b>
1701 Diocesan Assessment	\$ 12,399.00	\$ 12,399.00	100%
1702 Outreach from Budget	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	100%
1705 Bishop's Discretionary Fund	\$ -	\$ -	0%
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 15,399.00</b>	<b>\$ 15,399.00</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>NORMAL PARISH OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
1711 Clergy Stipend - Clergy Health Insurance	\$ 8,889.96	\$ 8,889.96	100%
1711 Clergy Stipend - Clergy Housing Equity	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,800.00	100%
1711 Clergy Stipend - Clergy SECA Offset	\$ 4,806.00	\$ 4,806.09	100%
1711 Clergy Stipend - Clergy Stipend	\$ 42,694.80	\$ 42,694.76	100%
1713 Supply Clergy	\$ 287.21	\$ 500.00	57%
1713 Deacon Travel Reimbursements	\$ -	\$ -	0%
1713 Clergy Travel Reimbursements	\$ 1,205.09	\$ 700.00	172%
1714 Organist Compensation	\$ 6,141.65	\$ 6,147.82	100%
1714 Assistant Organist	\$ 968.25	\$ 968.25	100%
1716 Church Pension Fund Premiums	\$ 12,294.36	\$ 12,304.68	100%
1718 Church Share of FICA	\$ 543.87	\$ 552.00	99%
<b>Total Personnel Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 80,631.19</b>	<b>\$ 80,363.56</b>	<b>100%</b>
1721 Sunday School	\$ 52.74	\$ 50.00	105%
1722 Youth Ministries	\$ -	\$ -	0%
1723 Adult Education	\$ 67.50	\$ 50.00	135%
1724 Parish Life & Hospitality	\$ -	\$ -	0%
1726 Flowers and Altar Supplies	\$ 763.19	\$ 200.00	382%
1727 Liturgy and Worship Material	\$ 658.44	\$ 200.00	329%
1728 Music	\$ 20.99	\$ 50.00	42%
1729 Stewardship Development	\$ 141.86	\$ 100.00	142%
<b>Total Church Program &amp; Development</b>	<b>\$ 1,704.72</b>	<b>\$ 650.00</b>	<b>262%</b>
1731 Postage	\$ 418.66	\$ 450.00	93%
1732 Bulletins and Printing	\$ -	\$ 50.00	0%
1733 General Office Supplies	\$ 349.00	\$ 250.00	140%
1734 Photo Copier Costs	\$ 1,056.29	\$ 750.00	141%
1736 Telephone and Broadband Services	\$ 1,041.19	\$ 1,000.00	104%
1737 Bookkeeping and Audit	\$ 443.30	\$ 400.00	111%
1738 Computer Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	0%
1738B Web Site Expenses	\$ -	\$ 150.00	0%
1739 Bank Charges	\$ -	\$ -	0%
<b>Total Administration Costs</b>	<b>\$ 3,308.44</b>	<b>\$ 3,050.00</b>	<b>108%</b>

<b>Page 3 December 2014 Finance Report</b>			
<b>DISBURSEMENTS CONTINUED</b>	<b>2014 Year to Date</b>	<b>2014 Budget</b>	<b>%</b>
1741 Snow Removal & Yard Care	\$ -	\$ -	0%
1742 Trash Removal	\$ 361.13	\$ 350.00	103%
1743 Cleaning Services	\$ 2,225.10	\$ 2,100.00	106%
1744 Minor Repairs / Maintenance	\$ 710.24	\$ -	0%
1745 Supplies & Other Building Expenses	\$ 70.00	\$ -	0%
1745B Organ Maintenance	\$ -	\$ -	0%
1746 A Rectory Heating Fuel (Subtotal: \$3303.85)	\$ -	\$ 3,200.00	0%
1746B Church Heating Fuel (Subtotal: \$4541.26)	\$ -	\$ 4,650.00	0%
1746C Parish Hall Heating Fuel (Subtotal: \$1248.90)	\$ -	\$ 900.00	0%
1746D Gas for Cooking (Subtotal: \$12.50)	\$ -	\$ 120.00	0%
1747A Rectory Electric Energy	\$ 885.92	\$ 1,000.00	89%
1747B Church Electric Energy	\$ 859.11	\$ 1,000.00	86%
1748 Water and Sewer	\$ 1,068.00	\$ 1,075.00	99%
1749 Comprehensive Insurance	\$ 4,068.00	\$ 3,800.00	107%
1746 Jackman's Budget 2013/2014 Season	\$ 11,010.93	\$ -	0%
<b>Total Property and Equipment Costs</b>	<b>\$ 21,258.43</b>	<b>\$ 18,195.00</b>	<b>117%</b>
1751 Advertising	\$ 175.00	\$ 200.00	88%
1752 Diocesan Convention Costs + Clergy Conf	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	100%
1753 Gifts for Members	\$ -	\$ -	0%
1754 SISP Expenses	\$ 1,250.00	\$ -	0%
1758 Annual Meeting Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	0%
<b>Total Miscellaneous Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,675.00</b>	<b>\$ 450.00</b>	<b>372%</b>
<b>Total Regular Parish Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 108,577.78</b>	<b>\$ 102,708.56</b>	<b>106%</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 123,976.78</b>	<b>\$ 118,107.56</b>	<b>105%</b>
<b>SPECIAL AND NON OPERATION EXPENSES</b>			
3901 Ministry from Wills Fund	\$ -	\$ -	0%
3902 Wills Fund Disbursements	\$ -	\$ -	0%
3904 Transmit of Special Offerings	\$ 655.00	\$ 500.00	131%
3905 Personal Assistance Grants	\$ -	\$ -	0%
3910 Capital Building Improvements	\$ -	\$ -	0%
3915 Capital Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	0%
<b>Total Non Operational Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 655.00</b>	<b>\$ 499.99</b>	<b>131%</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$ 124,631.78</b>	<b>\$ 118,607.55</b>	<b>105%</b>
<b>Total Income less Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 4,599.34</b>	<b>\$ 0.01</b>	<b>-</b>

<b>Page 4 December 2014 Finance Report</b>			
<b>ASSETS AND LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Fund Balances</b>		<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>
Regular Check Book (as of 12.31.2014)		\$ 4,909.67	
Designated Account Funds Total (as of 12.31.14)			\$ 26,587.03
Irene Fund			\$ 1,000.00
Hansen Fund			\$ 3,208.54
Wills Fund			\$ 5,264.69
Property Improvement Fund			\$ 3,423.61
Flower Fund			\$ 1,257.46
Youth Ministry Fund			\$ 2,028.74
Sabbatical Reserve Fund			\$ 1,600.00
Accessibility and Lift Fund			\$ 5,000.00
Memorials Fund			\$ 561.82
Unallocated Interest			\$ 12.60
Cremains, Vestments, Prayer Books, Linens Funds			\$ 4,177.00
IRS			\$ -
VTEL Deposit			\$ 1,050.00
Episcopal Church Women Account (12.31.14)			\$ 902.81
Rector's Discretionary Fund (as of 10.31.14)			\$ 908.68
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ 30,395.95</b>
Diocesan Unit Fund .. Hickok and Boardman (as of 07.01.2014)			\$ 340,195.69
<b>Total Cash Assets</b>	<b>\$397,178.67</b>		
<b>Assets-Checkbook</b>	<b>\$370,591.64</b>		