



## **ANNUAL REPORTS 2012 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.**

The 2012 Annual Reports are dedicated to Pat Barrows, who for years coped (with actual cutting with scissors no less - and pasting - with glue of course) with submissions to both the *Epistle* and the Annual Reports.

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### 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 20, 2013

Three Vestry members to each serve a three-year term (until January 2016)

One Vestry member to complete an unfilled term (until January 2014)

Three delegates to Diocesan Convention

Three alternate delegates to Diocesan Convention

## PARISH PERSONNEL & COMMITTEES 2012

<b>Rector</b>	The Rev. Alan Kittelson
<b>Postulant to the Diaconate</b>	Diane Rooney
<b>Senior Warden</b>	Tim Earle
<b>Junior Warden</b>	Judy Langeway
<b>The Vestry</b>	
<i>Term Ending January 2013</i>	Judy Langeway, Pam Macauley, Meghan Olsen
<i>Term Ending January 2014</i>	Betty Bristol, George Chauvin, Bo Price
<i>Term Ending January 2015</i>	Tim Earle, MaryBeth Hamilton, Lee Martel
<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>	Pam Macauley, Cricket Laidman, Sarah Cowan
<b>Alternates to Diocesan Convention</b>	Sue Berkenbush, Steve Lowe, Judy Langeway
<b>Acolytes</b>	Catie Macauley, Kassidy Jay
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Martha Clark, Carol Knauss, Mary Gordon
<b>Audit Committee</b>	George Chauvin, Sarah Cowan, Nate Guilmette
<b>Chalice Bearers</b>	Carol Knauss, Tim Earle, Diane Rooney
<b>Choir</b>	Cricket Laidman, Bob Laidman, Madelaine Calise, Jona Tierney, Bonnie Huizenga, Bo Price, Greg Hamilton, MaryBeth Hamilton, Alan Kittelson
<b>Counters</b>	Cricket Laidman, Steve Lowe, Kim Hatgen-Carrig, Mary Gordon, Carol Knauss, Betty Bristol, Sarah Cowan, Nate Guilmette
<b>E.C.C.R.T Representatives</b> <i>(Ecumenical Community Crisis Response Team)</i>	Margaret Lowe, Steve Lowe, Alan Kittelson
<b>Environmental Steward</b>	Steve Lowe
<b>St. Paul's Epistle (newsletter)</b>	Judy Martel, Lee Martel, Penny Goodkind
<b>Finance Committee</b>	Sarah Cowan, John Stroup, George Chauvin
<b>Flower Guild</b>	Lenore Morse, Rebecca Chauvin, Mary Gordon, Carol Knauss, Diane Merrill, Anne Sevee, Kim Hatgen-Carrig, Lucille LeBeau
<b>Food Shelf Volunteers</b>	Judy and Lee Martel, Mary Gordon, Lenore Morse
<b>Hospitality Coordinator</b>	Cricket Laidman

<b>Lectors</b>	Tim Earle, Bob Laidman, Sarah Stroup, Steve Lowe, Nan Guilmette, Christopher White, Pam Macauley, Sue Berkenbush
<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, Mary Gordon, Marcie Merryman-Means, Margaret Lowe, Lee and Judy Martel, Ann Haigis, Bo Price
<b>Sexton</b>	Beth McAllister
<b>Stewardship Committee</b>	Bob Laidman, Sarah Cowan, Madelaine Calise, Chris Hale, Bo Price
<b>Sunday School Teachers</b>	Nan Guilmette, Chair, Nate Guilmette, Margaret Lowe, Lenore Morse, Madelaine Calise, Pam & Bob Macauley, Bo Price, Sarah & John Stroup, Sarah & Chris Hale, and Rebecca & George Chauvin
<b>Welcomers</b>	Lenore Morse, Steve Lowe, Margaret Lowe, Mary Gordon Lee Martel, Ann Haigis, Jim Schuler, Randy Orvis

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING, January 22, 2012**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Vergennes, Vermont

Present: The Rev. Alan Kittelson, Judy Martel, Lee Martel, Penny Goodkind, Bob Laidman, Cricket Laidman, Tim Earle, Beth McAllister, Judy Langeway, John Stroup, Sarah Stroup, Steve Lowe, Mary Gordon, Sarah Cowan, Ann Sevee, Bo Price, Marybeth Hamilton, Judy Woods, Chris Hale, Nan Guilmette, Carol Knauss, Sue Berkenbush, Karen White, George Chauvin, Pam Macauley, and Marcia Merryman-Means

Following opening prayers, Alan called the meeting to order at 11:32. First, he noted the absence of Clerk Lenore Morse because of illness and announced the appointment of a clerk *pro tem*: Marcia Merryman-Means.

Alan directed our attention to pages 5 and 6 of the Annual Report—the minutes of the 2011 annual meeting—and asked if there were amendments, additions, or a motion to approve. Steve Lowe moved to accept, and Sarah Cowan seconded. Before a vote was taken, Carol Knauss pointed out that at the bottom (penultimate line) of page 5, “Margaret Knauss” was incorrectly referenced as a member of the stewardship visiting team. The person in question was, in fact, Margaret Lowe. With that correction, Steve Lowe moved to accept the minutes, and Sarah Cowan again seconded. The motion was approved unanimously, and the minutes were accepted with one correction.

Next, Alan stated that three three-year-term vestry positions were open. Two people, he said, had served the allowed two consecutive three-year terms (for a total of six years)—Madelaine Calise and Carol Knauss. He voiced thanks to Carol and Madelaine for their devoted and long-time service. The other open position had been held by Mary Gordon who completed the final year of Jeanne Wisner’s three-year term. (Following Jeanne’s move to Burlington, her seat also was held for one year by Lucille LeBeau.) Mary Gordon presented the Nominating Committee’s slate for these open vestry positions: Tim Earle, Mary Beth Hamilton, and Lee Martel. Nominations from the floor were invited. None was made. George Chauvin moved to accept the slate, on a single-ballot vote. Steve Lowe and Bo Price both seconded, and the slate was voted into office unanimously.

Mary Gordon then presented the Nominating Committee’s slate of delegates to Diocesan Convention. The nominee representing the vestry was Pam Macauley. Cricket Laidman and Sarah Cowan had also agreed to serve as delegates. No nominations were made from the floor. Sarah Stroup moved to accept the nominee slate, and Mary Beth Hamilton seconded the motion. Bob Laidman asked with respect to the convention whether it was to be held in Burlington. Alan answered that it was and that its location in Burlington accounted for the lower line-item figure for travel in the 2012 budget. Last year’s higher expense took in the cost of an overnight stay. The delegate slate was then unanimously approved.

Mary Gordon named the three nominees for alternates to the convention: Sue Berkenbush, Steve Lowe, and Judy Langeway. Nominations were solicited from the floor, but none was offered. John Stroup moved to accept the slate of candidates; both Tim Earle and Marybeth Hamilton seconded. The slate was unanimously approved.

Alan then directed our attention to pages 3 and 4 of the Annual Report and reminded us that there are many ministries at our church in which members of the congregation participate. He thanked all the people named there. Nan Guilmette inquired about the process to amend the list of names for 2012, pointing out that several men had volunteered to staff the Sunday school. Alan stated that a deadline for amendments and additions for the 2012 Annual Report would be announced toward the end of the year. He thanked Rebecca Chauvin for her exemplary work as Sunday school coordinator for the past three years and noted that the baton had been now passed to Nan.

Alan then thanked retiring Pat Barrows for her dedication to publication of the monthly newsletter in tandem with Penny Goodkind, who would be carrying on publication, along with Lee and Judy Martel.

John Stroup then gave a report on the budget. He reminded us that last year he had drawn our attention to many numbers; this year his focus was just one number. The number that mattered most for 2012 was found on page 3 of the budget report: "Total Income Less Total Expenses." If we compared that line item from 2010 to 2012, we could see the overall improvement. The deficit has declined by more than \$10,000. He noted that pledges (as reflected on page 1, 1401-3) had also gone up over the years but had now essentially hit a plateau. He stated that our parish cannot continue to maintain various expenses if we remain at this plateau. In two years we will have reached a place where we cannot sustain the deficit. He pointed out that the budget was very lean on the expense side, with a small increase (1.6%) for compensation for this year. He drew attention to line items 1406-1 (Unit Trust Fund Endowment) and 1406-2 (Swift Fund Interest). Judy Martel asked whether the Swift Fund had indeed gone down to zero. John explained that in their 2011 deliberations concerning the fund (which had been in a CD for three years), the vestry had decided to move the monies to Hickok and Boardman/Raymond James. There is now \$50,000 of available funds in short-term vehicles. John advised moving \$25,000 immediately into our checking account, to make it available to pay bills. If that were to be necessary next year as well, it would essentially wipe out that fund.

Nan Guilmette asked about the Diocesan Unit Fund. John responded that the Diocese of Vermont has an investment of about \$30 million, in which we hold shares paying a dividend each quarter. This accounts for 5% of our holdings. Sarah Cowan further explained that the \$281,669.37 endowment comes from various sources (over a period of many years). Part of that money is reflected in the Swift Fund. Nan asked whether we really want to touch that money. Sarah responded that the vestry would decide, and Nan voiced the concern that this might be a slippery slope. Lee Martel asked for an explanation of "designated" funds. John clarified that these funds can be used only for certain expenditures. Sarah further stated that "restricted" is an accounting term that distinguishes types of endowments (gifts, e.g.) that have specified uses. Their purpose is assigned or established by the giver, and they cannot be used for ordinary expenses. Sarah then pointed to the 2011 budget on page 16—"Normal Operating Income Total." We brought in more than the budgeted projection for 2011, and she voiced the hope that we could do the same in 2012. John noted that the parish had been named in the wills of Carla Gustafson and Ann Palmer, which was one reason that the figure was higher than expected. It was reiterated that we can all remember the parish in our wills. Steve Lowe asked about voting the budget, and Alan explained that in Episcopal Church polity, it is the elected representatives of the vestry who adopt the budget, which is then presented to the congregation. John was thanked for his hard work.

Sarah Cowan then gave the stewardship committee report. First, she updated the budget figures for pledges. As of today, the pledges had gone up to \$63,831, reflecting 37 units and an average pledge of \$1,934. Many parishioners had increased their pledges over last year, and Sarah thanked them. She noted that we also had lost pledges that she did not expect we would regain. Our gifts to the parish, she said, did not simply take the form of money. The pledge cards also list other possible ways to contribute to the parish. She drew to our attention two new line items: offering rides to church and bringing new people to church. She asked us to remember evangelism—not in a bold and brassy way but simply by staying attuned to the possibilities. Our membership numbers need to increase if the financial plateau is to be surmounted. We give both internally and outwardly as a parish—contributing to our community through the Outreach Committee. The more we pledge, the more we give back. Sarah noted that some pledges had come in early for 2012—along with the pledge cards at the end of last year. Bo Price asked if we knew what percentage of the congregation pledged. Sarah estimated the number at 75%. She pointed out that we can ensure that a need (gardening, snow shoveling, etc.) is covered (instead of wondering how it will be funded) only through the pledging of our time, talent, and treasure. Alan noted that the Stewardship Committee had agreed to meet once a month. Bob Laidman spoke from the floor to note that he and Sarah had split the job of reporting on the committee's work and that his part had been preparation of the graphs in the Annual Report but that the graphs did not reflect the newest figures cited by Sarah.

Alan asked if we had any other business. Sarah stepped up to recognize Carol Knauss for her tireless work on the vestry and, most particularly, as Senior Warden. The assembly rose to its feet in a standing ovation for our departing Senior Warden.

There being no other business, Steve Lowe moved that we adjourn, and Pam Macauley seconded the motion. Alan directed us to the Prayer Book at page 578: “A Litany of Thanksgiving for a Church,” which was then prayed. The meeting adjourned at 12:17.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Merryman-Means, Clerk *Pro Tem*  
Annual Meeting

### **REPORT FROM THE RECTOR**

As I write and reflect on 2012, we’re just a few days into the new year of 2013. Tomorrow is the Day of Epiphany and among other hymns we’ll be singing *We three kings of Orient are*. By a few degrees of separation this popular carol has a link to St. Paul’s. Both the music and lyrics were written by John Henry Hopkins, Jr. His father was Vermont’s Bishop Hopkins who designed our church building. I’m also mindful that tomorrow is the 98<sup>th</sup> birthday of our oldest member, Martha Clark. Congratulations to her and best wishes on this day.

Coming a year after St. Paul’s bicentennial was celebrated, 2012 had fewer extraordinary events scheduled, so the rhythm of parish life returned to its regular pace. Yet there were many instances of fresh energy and the ongoing participation and sharing of tasks that are the hallmark of a congregation trying to live out its vocation. Through increased funding the Outreach Committee offered larger grants to the immediate and wider communities. A new initiative of the Sunday School was to offer a “Make and Take” event to the Vergennes community during the city’s December holiday stroll. Speaking of the Sunday School, Nan Guilmette took over as the coordinator, and the teaching staff grew to include fathers as well as mothers. Another example of fuller participation is this fact: Financial pledges to St. Paul’s made during 2012 for the 2013 fiscal year, increased 19% over the previous year. This is a heartening development, and I’m grateful to all who’ve chosen to be pledging members of the congregation. The Stewardship Committee met in a regular fashion all during 2012. Chris Hale is to be commended once again for the fine booklet he put together as a part of the invitation to pledge.

Three long-time members of St. Paul’s died during 2012. They were Barry Vrooman, Pat Barrows, and Sybil Osborne. Each had been part of this congregation in significant ways. *Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them*. Also during 2012 Kate Langeway Collins transferred out of the parish, and one member was added through Baptism.

Here I wish to thank Tim Earle who has been Senior Warden this past year. He has long acquaintance and practice in the church and has been a valuable resource to me. For example, when the congregation (through a Special Meeting in October) chose to move ahead with a project involving VTel, Tim’s ability to work with the involved legal aspects saved me a lot of headaches.

An unfortunate event took place a few months into last year’s winter. Our postulant to Holy Orders, Diane Rooney, fell on the ice and was injured. She has undergone a long recovery and was unable to worship with us following her accident. Nevertheless, from her desk at home, Diane continued to arrange the Prayers of the People week by week and to schedule acolytes when they were available. Also it was at her initiative that St. Paul’s began offering services of Morning Prayer at the Vergennes Residential Care Home. That congregation on some occasions now includes almost 20 people.

The following liturgies were offered to the glory of God during the course of 2012:

- 105 Sunday celebrations of Holy Eucharist  
(which included 1 Baptism: Gabriel Thomas Hale)
- 20 Weekday celebrations of Holy Eucharist
  - 1 Proper Liturgy of Good Friday
- 13 Services of Morning Prayer
- 12 Services of Compline
- 24 Private Communions with Anointing for Healing           In hospital, nursing home
- 14 Additional Occasions of Anointing for Healing           or private residence
  - 1 Marriage Blessing: Fred McKelder Brown and Aloyse Melissa Blair
  - 2 Funerals: Barry Vrooman, Sybil Osborne [Pat Barrows’ Memorial Service to be later]

The “Average Sunday Attendance” is a statistic that is sent to both the diocesan and national church offices. During 2012, St. Paul’s “A.S.A.” was 47 people. For some comparison, see below:

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)

The figures demonstrate a continuing decline in Sunday attendance, with the most recent figure being more than 10 people lower than only 3 years ago. I know that issues of illness, weather, work schedules, and being out of town all come into play. Yet it's tempting for me to wonder if in part there may be some neglect of Christian responsibility. It's not my purpose here to sermonize, but it cannot hurt to reflect on a portion of the Baptismal Covenant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers? I will, with God's help.

The Vestry terms of Judy Langeway, Pam Macauley, and Meghan Olsen draw to a finish in January 2013. Pam and Meghan served for three years each, and Judy for six. She has also been serving as Junior Warden. Due to health reasons, Betty Bristol is leaving the Vestry one year before her term ends. Therefore at the Annual Meeting, in addition to electing 3 representatives for 3-year terms, someone will be chosen to fill out the remaining year of Betty's stint. My thanks to Judy, Pam, Meghan, and Betty for all the collective years they have offered.

Above I've already said thank you a number of times, but gratitude is indeed the primary feeling I have about the year past. Thanks be to God and thanks to all the disciples of Christ at St. Paul's Church, Vergennes.  
Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Alan L. Kittelson

#### **SENIOR WARDEN REPORT**

This past year was filled with many different challenges for the St. Paul's Vestry. The year began with Carol Knauss stepping down from the Vestry after 6 years of dedicated service as Senior Warden. Her service is truly appreciated by her successor! St. Paul's has continued to cope well with both the mundane aspects of building and grounds maintenance and the far more challenging tasks of growing our congregation, serving the community at large and being faithful stewards of the Gospel.

Early in the year the vestry reviewed the design proposals of an architecture class at UVM regarding a new handicap access ramp and solar energy installation. While this was informative it was not something that fit well with the aesthetics or budget of St. Paul's. Better handicap access is a need the Vestry continues to try to resolve in a manner that will serve all who wish to enter our church and enhance the roadside appeal of the building.

In early April St. Paul's was contacted by a representative of VTEL Wireless with a proposal to install a wireless Internet communication array in the bell tower of the church. The purpose of the array is to provide broadband Internet access to the underserved people of the Vergennes area in accordance with the state of Vermont's initiative to allow everyone in the state to have Internet access. The Vestry spent many hours examining the pros and cons of this idea and finally agreed that, as the antenna installation would not impact the structure or appearance of the church or compromise our use of the building and would provide a revenue stream, it was an opportunity to help our budget and serve the community. The final agreement with VTEL was signed in November.

The Vestry wrestled this past year, as with so many years in the past, to reconcile the needs of the congregation, our mission in the world and our budget. In light of this the Vestry as a body committed to increasing our pledge numbers with a goal of a 20% increase! As a group the Vestry achieved a little over a 19% increase! Something that was mirrored in the pledge totals for the parish at large.

The Vestry also tasked itself with some serious introspection by asking ourselves what we felt was important enough to make a real commitment to for the coming year. As a result of this the vestry set the following goals for the coming year:

1. Make the financial health of St. Paul's a priority and take the lead by increasing our own individual pledge commitment.
2. Make a commitment to increase our annual donations to the local Food Shelf by 40% to help offset both the decrease in federal aid and the increased need.
3. Express its continuing commitment to youth education and the need to find solutions to the space crunch and age range difficulties.
4. Begin a concerted effort to collect and share the myriad stories of what brings us as a congregation to worship together and see God's work in the world.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Earle, Sr. Warden

## **JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT**

The Vestry was relatively busy this year. We engaged the help of a group of engineering students from UVM to create a possible design for new church steps and a proper handicapped entrance to the church. Lenore is in the process of creating a book of minutes and making CD copies of minutes and agendas. I took pictures of the inside of our bell tower including some beautiful graffiti. It is in an album at my house.

Lee Martel repaired the Rectory office door and installed a security light.

Charlie Lavarne repaired a leak around one to the church chimneys that was damaging the plaster in the balcony.

Our photo copier died and after some research and discussion the Vestry purchased a printer, copier, scanner that fits our needs quite well.

Lee Martel updated all fire extinguishers and got us on a regular schedule of checking them.

The church was given some bookcases and they were installed in the Narthex.

I hosted a tour of the church with the fire dept. to see if everything looked OK in case of a fire. They found one exit light out but all seemed OK as far as exiting the building and such.

There are many projects needing funding and people to head them up:

1. Rectory front steps and railing are getting dangerous
2. Church steps needs reinforcing.
3. Repair damaged plaster in the balcony.
4. Wash the Rectory siding.
5. Create a proper Rectory hatchway to cellar.
6. Keep our sights on a handicapped ramp for the church.

I have spent my time that I can for the Vestry but will not forget the projects existing and will keep working on them as I can.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Langeway, Junior Warden



## **FLOWER GUILD**

From Easter until Lent, the members of the Flower Guild arranged the altar flowers and during the summer supplied flowers from parish gardens. A special thank you to Diane and Sarah for the lovely flowers from the St. Paul's plot at the community gardens. Thanks also for generous gifts from parishioners for Easter and Christmas flowers. Current balances listed in the operating budget and in the designated funds are as follows:

Designated funds= \$1257.46 and Flowers and Altar supplies= \$895.00 .

Members of the Flower Guild this year were Rebecca Chauvin, Mary Gordon, Kim Hatgen, Carol Knauss, Lucille LeBeau, 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.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lenore Morse



## **CHOIR**

Each Sunday the choir faithfully and joyfully leads the congregation in the music at St. Paul's. Bob and Cricket Laidman, Greg and Mary Beth Hamilton, Alan Kittelson, Jona Tierney, Madelaine Calise, Bo Price, Bonnie Huizenga and I seek to enhance our worship with hymns and anthems which correspond to the scripture readings as well as the season of the year. I also enjoy singing with the children during their Sunday School class and the Family Services. I remember many Sunday School songs from my childhood and I hope they will remember them as they grow up too.

These past few years there has been a tradition of caroling the Sunday before Christmas. This time Chris Hale joined us in singing and visiting the homebound members of the parish. A blessing was had by all.

We offer our music as an encouragement when a friend passes away. Sybil Osborne was a faithful supporter of the music at St. Paul's. She chose, very appropriately, for the choir to sing at her memorial service, "How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place."

Thank you to all the musicians who play throughout the year: Carol Knauss, Bo, Jona and Bob. And don't forget the children who keep many various beats with the percussion instruments!

Let Judy know if you have a hymn or anthem request. The choir practices on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm in the parish hall. We always welcome more voices to join us.  
Respectfully submitted,

Judith Woods



### SUNDAY SCHOOL

This year, we experimented with having the dads take a roll in the Sunday School, and they have done a terrific job! All of our volunteers have worked hard to prepare and share lessons that help the children of St. Paul's connect the weekly readings with their own lives. Each week we begin together at the altar lighting the candles and reciting the Lord's Prayer, which many of the children have now memorized. After reading the Gospel story together we have begun splitting the group up by age most weeks, which has allowed the older and younger children to work on age-appropriate projects and activities centered around the weekly Gospel reading.

Currently, we use the resources from the Episcopal Church's website, but are still sorting out what curriculum we want to use after our former curriculum went totally digital and became much pricier. However, we will be trying out some new resources this year aimed at Sunday Schools like ours: multi-age, one-room adventures in religious education!

We also added a "baby-care" component. Several parishioners stepped up to help out with caring for the little ones so that the Sunday School teachers could focus on the lesson with the older children. Thanks to all of those who have volunteered in both that capacity and in the teaching role!

Respectfully submitted,

Nan Guilmette, Chair



### ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

The *Epistle* is published once a month. The staff is Lee and Judy Martel and Penelope Goodkind. 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).

### 2012 OUTREACH AND PASTORAL CARE

Members: Diane Rooney, Laurie Earle, Mary Gordon, Margaret Lowe, Judy & Lee Martel, Marcie Means, Lenore Morse, Bo Price

St. Paul's Outreach Committee has continued this past year with our usual activities: members contribute snacks weekly to the Vergennes Boys and Girls Club; a 'freezer meal' ministry is coordinated by Marcie when needed; Judy & Lee are devoted volunteers with the Vergennes Food shelf; Bo accompanies Fr. Alan to the monthly services at the Vergennes Residential Care Home; and all contribute to putting together Christmas gift baskets for our older members who can't always be with us for worship.

In new activity: Judy, Lee, Margaret, and Laurie visited Gethsemane Episcopal Church in Proctorsville in the early spring to explore how we might help them in their efforts to rebuild post-Irene. Much clean up was still needed on the grounds more

than half a year after the storm, but as we were unable to field a group before major construction was begun it was decided to wait until workers and vehicles were finished with their work.

In April, Mary and Laurie attended the first organizational meeting of a new community meal now known as Table of Grace. The group was comprised of representatives of Ferrisburgh Methodist Church, Vergennes Methodist Church, and Vergennes Congregational Church as well as St. Paul's. Frequent meetings continued until the launch of the first meal in July, served at the Congregational church. Members of St. Peter's have since joined in as volunteers at the meals. Table of Grace is held on the fourth Friday of each month, with the organizing group meeting on the second Thursday after each meal for follow-up and planning the next meal. Marcie volunteers on those Fridays and others in our parish have expressed interest. Lee and Judy bring takeout meals to shut-ins.

Our Committee also distributes funds to a variety of organizations. In 2012, we doubled many of our donations in response to the difficult economy and subsequent increased needs. This year recipients included the following:

Episcopal Relief and Development - \$500.00

Addison County Open Door Clinic - \$600.00

Boys and Girls Club of Vergennes - \$600.00

John Graham Shelter - \$200.00

Doctors Without Borders - \$100.00

Table of Grace - \$200.00

Kidscare (group that provided packaged meals to Vermont Food Shelves in August) c/o St. Stephen's Middlebury - \$250.00

Vergennes Food Shelf - \$600.00

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Earle

#### **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

In all, for 2012, we received 39 pledges totaling \$65,351. We had hoped to increase pledging units by 25%. We were able to find new pledges but given non-renewals and deaths, our total pledging units were static. On a more positive note, the amount pledged exceeded 2011 pledges by over \$500 and the average pledge increased from \$1,662 to \$1,676. By year end, we were blessed with total collections of \$67,187 from pledge sources. This did not include members' additional gifts for flowers, Easter and Christmas offerings and other collections. We have a very generous parish!

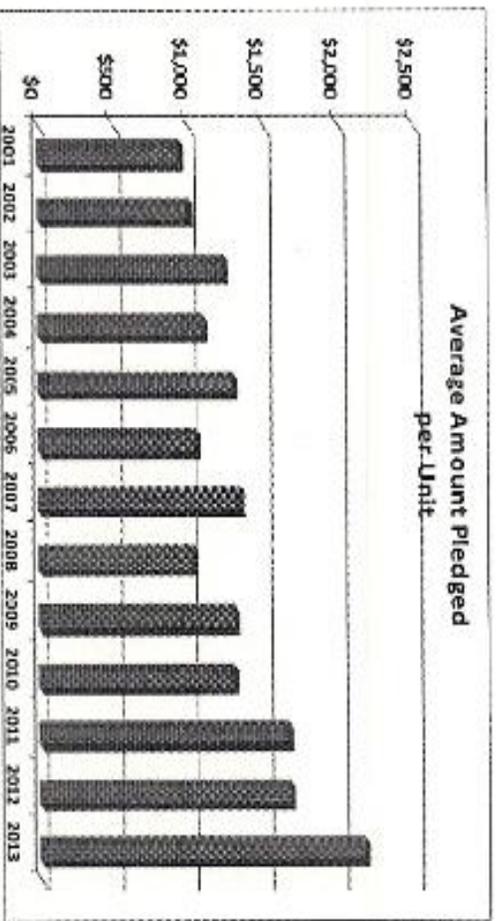
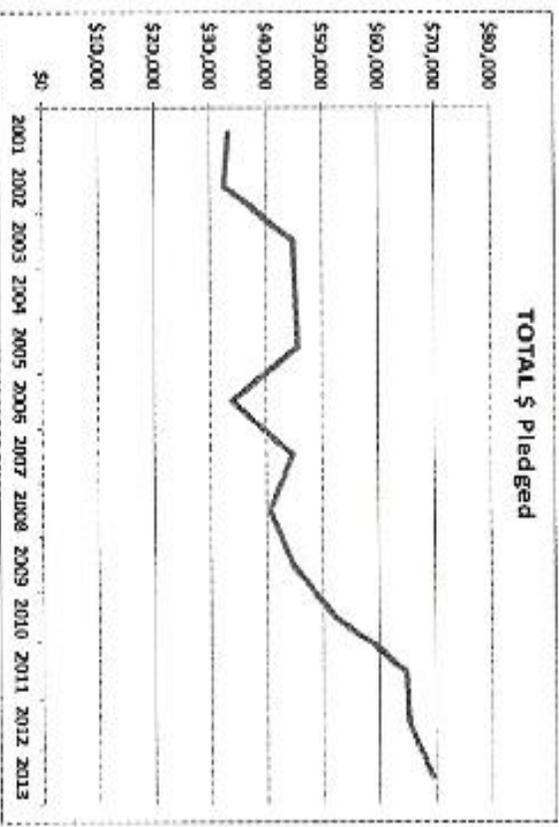
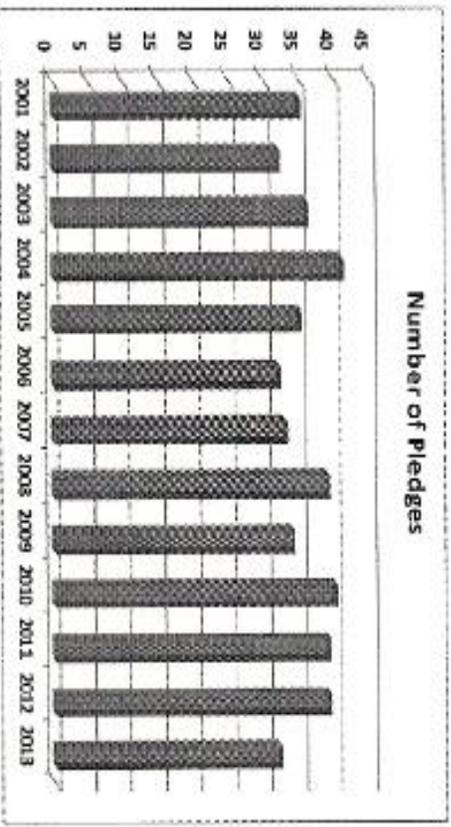
Additionally, we continued to emphasize "Time & Talent" by asking our members to prayerfully consider what St Paul's means to them and then offer their time or talent in various ways. By doing so, we discovered there are those that want to be Lectors, snow shovelers, greeters and coffee hour hosts. We also noted increased pledges for participation in Sunday School, to serve as acolytes or sing in the choir.

The committee met throughout the year and established a goal of engaging the vestry through education and activities. To that end, a joint meeting was held in July, facilitated by the Diocesan Minister for Stewardship Development, the Rev. Angela Emerson. We enjoyed a day-long gathering hosted by Mary Beth Hamilton where we prayed together, learned about Stewardship and told stories about why we cherish St. Paul's. We ended the workshop by listing possible goals that our vestry should consider for 2103 and beyond. We also committed to make parish member visits to as many of St Paul's families as possible. In all, the day was very inspiring!

In the fall, our 2013 Stewardship Report & Pledge Appeal Booklet was created, thanks again to Chris Hale's wonderful creativity and hard work. As in the past, it is suitable for display on any Episcopalian's coffee table! We then set out in teams of two visiting parishioners; to gather their thoughts about St Paul's and to explain our 2013 goals. Vestry charged us (and ourselves) to increase our monetary commitment so that we may grow our children's programs, offset the deduction in federal funding for our local Vergennes Food Shelf and to tell our stories about why St Paul's is part of our lives. In order to do this, we hoped to increase our pledge amounts by an ambitious 20%!

We celebrated our In-Gathering of pledges on October 28<sup>th</sup> by collecting many gift intention forms. Our vestry and stewardship committees led in our effort by increasing pledge amounts by over 19%! In all, we anticipate strong growth in pledges, currently 19.2% higher than 2012, with a few more to come in. You can see our 2013 progress in the chart on the next page.

YEAR	Number of Pledges	TOTAL \$ Pledged	Average Pledge
2001	35	\$33,330	\$952
2002	32	\$42,512	\$1,016
2003	36	\$44,777	\$1,244
2004	41	\$45,115	\$1,100
2005	31	\$45,596	\$1,308
2006	32	\$33,829	\$1,057
2007	31	\$44,702	\$1,385
2008	38	\$40,600	\$1,091
2009	34	\$40,612	\$1,111
2010	40	\$52,251	\$1,306
2011	39	\$64,807	\$1,662
2012	39	\$65,351	\$1,676
2013	32	\$69,957	\$2,171



**Saint Paul's Vergennes Finance Report for 2012 - 12.31.12**

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

<b>INCOME</b>			
<b>NORMAL OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>2012 Year to Date</b>	<b>2012 Budget</b>	<b>%</b>
1404-1 Anonymous Plate Cash	\$ 1,705.77	\$ 1,500.00	114%
1404-2 Holy Day Offerings	\$ 2,151.00	\$ 3,000.00	72%
1404-3 Pledge Current Year	\$ 64,182.50	\$ 62,811.00	102%
1404-4 Pledge Prior Year	\$ 3,132.00	\$ 1,000.00	313%
1404-5 Pledge Next Year	\$ 10,120.00	\$ 500.00	2024%
1406-1 Unit Trust Fund Endowment	\$ 13,167.89	\$ 10,000.00	132%
1406-2 Swift Fund Interest	\$ -	\$ -	
1408 Use of Building Income	\$ 1,565.00	\$ -	
1408 VTEL	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	
1409 Fundraising	\$ 1,813.45	\$ 2,500.00	73%
1410 Unexpected Undesignated Gifts	\$ 1,090.00	\$ 1,000.00	109%
1412 Miscellaneous Income	\$ 5,381.00	\$ -	
1413 General Checking Interest Earned	\$ 1.35	\$ 2.00	68%
1430-1 Donor Designated For Normal Operations	\$ 11.00	\$ -	
1430-2 Donor Designated For Flowers	\$ 781.02	\$ 600.00	130%
<b>Normal Operating Income Total</b>	<b>\$ 106,601.98</b>	<b>\$ 82,913.00</b>	<b>129%</b>
<b>NON OPERATION INCOME</b>			
3410 Gifts to Capital Improvements	\$ -	\$ -	
3412 Hanson Fund Interest	\$ 438.13	\$ 450.00	97%
3413 Property Improvement Fund Interest	\$ 655.60	\$ 650.00	101%
3414 Wills Fund Interest	\$ 494.69	\$ 500.00	99%
3415 Fund Raising for Capital Improvements	\$ -	\$ -	
3445 Gifts for Memorial Fund	\$ -	\$ -	
3460-1 Special Offerings	\$ 718.67	\$ 500.00	144%
3460-2 Holiday / Easter Flowers Fund	\$ -	\$ -	
3470 Donations to ECW	\$ -	\$ -	
3480 UTO Fund	\$ 7.35	\$ -	
3490 Designated Accounts Interest	\$ 16.38	\$ 5.00	328%
3492 VTEL Deposit - Not to be spent	\$ 1,050.00	\$ -	
<b>NON OPERATION TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,380.82</b>	<b>\$ 2,105.00</b>	<b>161%</b>
<b>Grants from the Diocese of Vermont</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 109,982.80</b>	<b>\$ 85,018.00</b>	<b>129%</b>
<b>Page 2 December 2012 Finance Report</b>			
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>			
<b>DIOCESE AND WORK OUTSIDE</b>	<b>2012 Year to Date</b>	<b>2012 Budget</b>	<b>%</b>

<b>PARISH</b>			
1701 Diocesan Assessment	\$ 10,247.04	\$ 10,247.00	100%
1702 Outreach from Budget	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	100%
1705 Bishop's Discretionary Fund	\$ -	\$ -	0%
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 14,247.04</b>	<b>\$ 14,247.00</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>NORMAL PARISH OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
1711 Clergy Stipend - Clergy Health Insurance	\$ 8,505.99	\$ 8,522.96	100%
1711 Clergy Stipend - Clergy Housing Equity	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00	100%
1711 Clergy Stipend - Clergy SECA Offset	\$ 4,549.92	\$ 4,550.00	100%
1711 Clergy Stipend - Clergy Stipend	\$ 39,742.08	\$ 39,742.00	100%
1713 Supply Clergy	\$ 639.67	\$ 500.00	128%
1713 Deacon Travel Reimbursements	\$ -	\$ 700.00	0%
1713 Clergy Travel Reimbursements	\$ 1,565.64	\$ 1,400.00	112%
1714 Organist Compensation	\$ 5,898.01	\$ 5,898.00	100%
1714 Assistant Organist	\$ 929.04	\$ 929.00	100%
1716 Church Pension Fund Premiums	\$ 11,524.08	\$ 11,750.00	98%
1718 Church Share of FICA	\$ 522.24	\$ 525.00	99%
<b>Total Personnel Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 76,276.67</b>	<b>\$ 76,916.96</b>	<b>99%</b>
1721 Sunday School	\$ 31.25	\$ 200.00	16%
1722 Youth Ministries	\$ -	\$ -	
1723 Adult Education	\$ 101.62	\$ 150.00	68%
1724 Parish Life & Hospitality	\$ -	\$ -	
1726 Flowers and Altar Supplies	\$ 1,390.70	\$ 800.00	174%
1727 Liturgy and Worship Material	\$ 501.56	\$ 750.00	67%
1728 Music	\$ -	\$ 150.00	0%
1729 Stewardship Development	\$ 577.53	\$ 350.00	165%
<b>Total Church Program &amp; Development</b>	<b>\$ 2,602.66</b>	<b>\$ 2,400.00</b>	<b>108%</b>
1731 Postage	\$ 483.60	\$ 600.00	81%
1732 Bulletins and Printing	\$ 52.60	\$ 50.00	105%
1733 General Office Supplies	\$ 268.31	\$ 500.00	54%
1734 Photo Copier Costs	\$ 1,415.36	\$ 1,500.00	94%
1736 Telephone and Broadband Services	\$ 943.67	\$ 1,000.00	94%
1737 Bookkeeping and Audit	\$ 361.60	\$ 550.00	66%
1738 Computer Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	
1738B Web Site Expenses	\$ 264.99	\$ 50.00	530%
1739 Bank Charges	\$ -	\$ -	
<b>Total Administration Costs</b>	<b>\$ 3,790.13</b>	<b>\$ 4,250.00</b>	<b>89%</b>
<b>Page 3 December 2012 Finance Report</b>			
<b>DISBURSEMENTS CONTINUED</b>			
	<b>2012 Year to Date</b>	<b>2012 Budget</b>	<b>%</b>
1741 Snow Removal & Yard Care	\$ -	\$ 100.00	0%
1742 Trash Removal	\$ 578.59	\$ 550.00	105%
1743 Cleaning Services	\$ 2,150.00	\$ 2,200.00	98%

1744 Minor Repairs / Maintenance	\$ 1,335.64	\$ 1,000.00	134%
1745 Supplies & Other Building Expenses	\$ 877.50	\$ 450.00	195%
1745B Organ Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 150.00	0%
1746 A Rectory Heating Fuel (Subtotal: \$2607.55)	\$ -	\$ 2,200.00	0%
1746B Church Heating Fuel (Subtotal: \$3178.44)	\$ -	\$ 3,300.00	0%
1746C Parish Hall Heating Fuel (Subtotal: \$1143.99)	\$ -	\$ 1,300.00	0%
1746D Gas for Cooking (Subtotal: \$71)	\$ -	\$ 80.00	0%
1747A Rectory Electric Energy	\$ 882.57	\$ 900.00	98%
1747B Church Electric Energy	\$ 941.72	\$ 900.00	105%
1748 Water and Sewer	\$ 1,074.00	\$ 900.00	119%
1749 Comprehensive Insurance	\$ 3,779.00	\$ 3,700.00	102%
1746 Jackman's Budget 2009/2010 Season	\$ 7,166.00	\$ -	
<b>Total Property and Equipment Costs</b>	<b>\$ 18,785.02</b>	<b>\$ 17,730.00</b>	<b>106%</b>
1751 Advertising	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	100%
1752 Diocesan Convention Costs + Clergy Conf	\$ 124.00	\$ 300.00	41%
1753 Gifts for Members	\$ -	\$ 100.00	0%
1754 Vtel Expenses	\$ 2,760.94	\$ -	0%
1758 Annual Meeting Expenses	\$ -	\$ 50.00	0%
<b>Total Miscellaneous Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 3,084.94</b>	<b>\$ 650.00</b>	<b>475%</b>
<b>Total Regular Parish Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 104,539.42</b>	<b>\$ 101,946.96</b>	<b>103%</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 118,786.46</b>	<b>\$ 116,193.96</b>	<b>102%</b>
<b>SPECIAL AND NON OPERATION EXPENSES</b>			
3901 Ministry from Wills Fund	\$ -	\$ -	
3902 Wills Fund Disbursements	\$ -	\$ -	
3904 Transmit of Special Offerings	\$ -	\$ -	
3905 Personal Assistance Grants	\$ -	\$ -	
3910 Capital Building Improvements	\$ -	\$ -	
3915 Capital Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	
<b>Total Non Operational Expenses</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$ 118,786.46</b>	<b>\$ 116,193.96</b>	<b>102%</b>
<b>Total Income less Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ (8,803.66)</b>	<b>\$ (31,175.96)</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Page 4 December 2012 Finance Report</b>			
<b>TRANSFERS</b>			
FROM St Paul's Designated Holding	\$ 3,950.00		
FROM St Paul's General Checking	\$ 11,961.37		
FROM Swift Endowment Fund	\$ 25,000.00		
TO St Paul's Designated Holding	\$ (11,961.37)		
TO St Paul's General Checking	\$ (28,950.00)		
<b>TOTAL TRANSFERS</b>	<b>\$ -</b>		

<b>ASSETS AND LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Fund Balances</b>		<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>
<b>Regular Check Book (as of 12.31.2012)</b>		<b>\$ 8,361.92</b>	
<b>Designated Account Funds Total (as of 12.31.12)</b>			<b>\$ 28,086.16</b>
Irene Fund			\$ 1,000.00
Hansen Fund			\$ 3,278.51
Wills Fund			\$ 4,214.56
Property Improvement Fund			\$ 4,431.93
Flower Fund			\$ 1,257.46
Youth Ministry Fund			\$ 2,028.74
Sabbatical Reserve Fund			\$ 1,600.00
Memorials Fund			\$ 561.82
Unallocated Interest			\$ 681.86
Cremains, Vestments, Prayer Books, Linens Funds			\$ 4,177.00
IRS			\$ 5,196.00
VTEL Deposit			\$ 1,050.00
<b>Episcopal Church Women Account (12.31.12)</b>			<b>\$ 901.55</b>
<b>Rector's Discretionary Fund</b>			<b>\$ 600.00</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 8,361.92</b>	<b>\$ 30,979.43</b>
<b>The George Swift Fund now with Raymond James (as of 09.30.2012)</b>			<b>\$ 26,136.85</b>
<b>Diocesan Unit Fund .. Hickok and Boardman (as of 9.30.2012)</b>			<b>\$ 314,441.02</b>
<b>Total Cash Assets</b>	<b>\$ 379,919.22</b>		
<b>Assets-Checkbook</b>	<b>\$ 371,557.30</b>		