



The Chronicles of

St. Paul's Willimantic

Fall, 2009

Jackie's Corner

Dear Family and Friends of St Paul's: With sincere joy in the Lord I send you greetings. Almost a full year ago I started sharing our journey in the Lord with you. At the time I came as a supply priest. I was, and still am, working my way into a new life after my husband of 28 years, Bill, died unexpectedly in 2007. The love and acceptance of the community of St. Paul's has truly been a healing balm to my soul.

In July the Vestry and I agreed that I would come on board as 1/3 time Priest-in-Charge. That enables me to provide spiritual leadership and pastoral care for 20 hours a week.

One of the reasons I believe the Lord has put us together is because we have both lost a defining part of ourselves. I lost my husband and all that it means to be defined as a married woman and you lost your building and all that it means to be defined as a worshipping community attached to the edifice of a beautiful stone building at 220 Valley Street in Willimantic Connecticut. I was with Bill for 30 years and I know that some of you have claimed St. Paul's as your home of worship for that long or even longer.

Together we must discover what God intends for our new lives. We now worship as guests of the Soup Kitchen who owns the building. I am about to move out of the home that Bill and I built 13 years ago and intended to share for the rest of our lives. In the many changes that we will experience there is one thing I know for sure. The love of God has always been with us, it is present to us in

this very moment, and it will always be with us! This love is faithful, compassionate, merciful, patient, creative, joy filled, and generous – to name a few attributes. We can count on this Spirit to lead us into our new way of Being.

Abraham was 75 when God called him out of Haran (*Genesis 12:1-2*). God said: "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. Through his faith and trust in God Abraham became the father of the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian religions. God promised Abraham that if he would follow and obey, God would bless him and make him into a great nation so that he would be a blessing and all the peoples of the earth would be blessed through him (*Genesis 12:2-3*).

In the book of Hebrews the author describes faith this way: "...faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." (*Hebrews 11:1*) They go on to say "By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going... For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God." (*Hebrews 11:8&10*) **As children of God** we are children of Abraham and as we walk in faith as he did God will bless us to be a blessing.

I look forward to our journey and the blessings we will bring each other and those God calls us to care for.

In Christ love,

Amma Jackie

The wardens and life after the sale

Changes in how we function (other than getting some underused space cleaned out) have been minimal. the big change is that we don't have to think about property management in general and the roof in particular! Having property issues become someone else's worry really simplified our lives.

Our "landlord" has been busy with property improvements both inside and out. Painting has improved the look of the staircase and other spaces in the church building, and the second floor of the office building is undergoing a much needed face lift. On the outside, the grass gets mowed and we have new plantings along Walnut Street.

Of course, the roof is on everybody's mind and here is the latest news: The State money is coming but getting it turns out to be much more complicated than anyone

expected. There have been a series of paperwork delays but actual construction is getting closer.

The latest issue is that the Soup Kitchen had gotten bids from a number of local contractors - but then found out that contractors had to be on a State approved list. The bidders weren't, and so the process is being redone. Unless something else comes up we should see construction before too long. In the meantime they did readjust the tarps that are up there - and recent heavy rains didn't seem to pour in too badly.

When the office moves we'll have limited space to store our collection of ancient and modern documents. Lisa Ferriere, Office Administrator, has begun sorting through this material to determine what should be saved. Diocesan House is the keeper of such files, and equipped to care for them. After Rev. Jackie views the material we will begin transporting it to Diocesan House for storage in their archives.

Worship committee

Our recently formed Worship committee met in October and it was decided that we will offer instructed Eucharist on December 6 and 13th. During an instructed Eucharist, we explore the history and the meaning behind everything we do during our service. So if you would really like to know why we stand and sit so much, be sure to mark your calendar.

The Worship committee also has decided to conduct Morning prayer whenever there is a 5th Sunday in the month with communion to follow when Jackie is available.

The committee will be meeting every 2nd Sunday of the month.

Non-alcoholic wine

Recently we changed over to non-alcoholic wine at the Eucharist. This is not grape juice but wine which has had the alcohol removed. We want everyone to feel welcome and comfortable at the table and this choice allows for inclusion of everyone.

BIG NEWS: A Wednesday service

As the result of a fortunate combination of people and interests we have found the resources to start putting together a Wednesday noon service. It is being designed to serve the whole Willimantic community as well as those of our members who can't make the Sunday service. A particular effort is being made to attract ECSU students and people who eat at the Soup Kitchen.

The service is simple and ecumenical, with the objective of bringing God's love and peace into everyone's life. The first in the series was offered on October 28, and used Taizé music (which we have done in the distant past) in a Taizé prayer and meditation format.

We're posting posters and distributing flyers. Service details also are on our website – click on the “In Willimantic” tab. You are invited to become involved to whatever extent you would like, just contact Jackie, Al E, Andrew or Tom. You also can email all of us at once by sending an email to:

wednesday@stpaulswillimantic.org

If you would like to keep up with the details of what's happening, let Al know, and he'll add you to that email list.

Christmas Memorial service

On Sunday, December 20, we'll have a memorial service at 5pm. This will be a time to remember those dear to us that no longer are with us. It will be a simple service of comfort and remembrance, open to and designed for the whole community.

Home Communion

We regularly visit and give home communion to people who are not able to attend church. This wonderful ministry is led by **Ferne McDonald**.

If you would like to be trained to bring communion to the homebound please **contact the office**. Also, if you **would like someone** put on our visiting schedule, please call the office at **423-8455**.

This is a beautiful opportunity to offer the Lords love and attention in a very meaningful way.

Our ministry

St. Paul's has a long history of ministry – not just to its members - but to the community as a whole. Our ministry has taken the form of supporting both physical and spiritual needs. With our present resources, our ability to provide major physical support – such as we did in founding the Soup Kitchen – is limited. However, we are in a strong position to minister to spiritual needs.

Successful ministry means we need to recognize opportunities when they arise - and be ready and willing to take them. This has been the case for both the upcoming Wednesday Community service and the Christmas Memorial service.

Beyond those, we are praying and thinking about ways we can invite more people into our worshipping community to share the Love of the Lord with us. Looking around our community we see people who attend the soup kitchen, students at Eastern, and people who live in the halfway houses surrounding the church, as those God has sent us to minister to. If you have any ideas about how we might become more welcoming and inviting to our neighbors please let us know.

More BIG NEWS: Deacon Ellen Adams

Finally, our last piece of BIG NEWS – we are happy to report that Deacon Ellen Adams will be joining us and sharing ministry with us starting Sunday October 18th. This development has just occurred and we will be sending you more information in the very near future. She is a wonderful, loving and generous woman. She has served as a Deacon at St. James in Preston and New London and also at St. David's in Gales Ferry. As she said; “My ministry has been very different in each parish where I have served. I look forward to the ministry the people of St. Paul's and I will develop together.” GOD IS SOOOOO GOOD!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Organ Recital at St. Paul's

As a present to the greater Willimantic community we provided a recital on the Fisk organ featuring Ms. **Lois Pardue** as guest organist. It took place on September 27, was well attended, and enthusiastically received. Ms. Pardue has some serious credentials (Eastman School of Music, Vassar, Wellesley, Longy, Harvard....) and her

performance lived up to all expectations.

For her program, Ms. Pardue chose music by Couperin, J.S. Bach, Paul Hindemith, Hermann Schroeder. Featured work on the program was Bach's Prelude and Fugue in E-flat which also had been performed when the Fisk organ was dedicated on September 24, 1972. The recital also was also offered in memory of **Doreen Moorhead**, who served this parish as organist from August 1966 to October 2001.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication to every detail by Ron Coons. He made all the arrangements, and coordinated all the rehearsals and music selections with Ms. Pardue. We thank him – as well as Ms. Pardue - for all their time and effort in putting together an enjoyable evening for the parish and the whole community.

St. Paul's at Kakata

Construction on the United Faith Center for Children orphanage in Kakata, Liberia is continuing - though at a slower pace than anticipated or desired. The world's assorted economic troubles are having their effect! Frank and Kroh **Stewart** will be leaving for Liberia shortly.. Kroh will return in 6 weeks but Frank is planning to stay for 5 months to supervise construction. We can expect some real progress in the near future!

Details on history and organization can be found on our website under the "Kakata" tab. Anne Hayes is the person to check for the latest details.

www.stpaulswillimantic.org

Our website, "stpaulswillimantic.org", and our blogs, "blogs.stpaulswillimantic.org", are in a continual state of development - and there's always more to be done than time to do it! While it's reasonable to expect the website to become more important to our ministry as time goes on, we always want to make sure that no one is left out just because they're not into computers, websites and email!

Details such as calendars, worship assistant schedules, readings, etc can be found by clicking on the "In the Parish" tab. Our doings in the greater Willimantic community – and especially the upcoming Wednesday service - are under the "In Willimantic" tab. Subjects such as the Soup Kitchen, the Kakata orphanage, and LGBT issues are covered under the related tabs.

Blogs can be reached directly or from the "Our blogs" tab. There are three categories, Spirituality, morality, theology..., St. Paul's in transformation, and World in transformation. The first is pretty general and includes some meditations. The second covers our history starting about the time Rev. Pat joined us – and badly needs a post on recent events! The World in transformation category basically consists of commentary on where in the world is the world going. If you feel like writing and have

something you want to say just let me know and before long you'll be on the web!

Backup on any and all of our web activities is badly needed. There are a lot of pieces involved and not a lot of specialized knowledge is required to work on most. Comments on what's good, what's bad, what would be useful to you, also would be very helpful to me.

The Newsletter

This is the first edition of our new newsletter, "*the Chronicles of St. Paul's Willimantic*." We hope you like it!!! The plans are to publish quarterly, both in print and email/web form. Print copies will be available for pickup after church, and those not picked up will be mailed. Alternatively, you will be able to receive your copy via email – there will be a sign-up sheet for this option. Finally, links to old and new newsletters will be placed on the "in the Parish" page of our website

Any comments, suggestions, things to cover in future newsletters, etc, etc, will be greatly appreciated.

Baptisms 2009

T'yon Casabiano Rogers, January 25, 2009

Kristopher Nicholas Curtis, Jr., September 20, 2009

Funerals/Memorial Services

Robert Lucius Kjellquist, December 8, 2008

Stella Louise Carpenter, January 31, 2009

Gary Obsharsky, July 18, 2009

Irene E. White Tedford, July 21, 2009

Maudene Jones, October 5, 2

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

November:

- 1, David Sutton
- 4, Maggie Taylor
- 5, Charles Dainton
- 6, Vivienne Jorczak
- 7, Janet Correll
- 16, Gloria & Gary Bent
- 19, Nan Nadile
- 21, Terry Brennan

December:

- 1, Al & Lynda Leonardi
- 8, Alfred Leonardi
- 20, Kit Eves
- 28, Lynda Leonardi
- 29, Victoria Haddad

What's happening at St. Paul's

Weekly Schedule:

Every Sunday: Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer at 9am followed by a coffee hour.

Every Wednesday: Community Service 12:30 to 1:30. Spiritual refreshment, relaxation, and renewal – an ecumenical service.

Office Hours: Rev. Sheldon – every Wednesday 10:00-3:00 p.m. (Office open Tu & W 9:30-2pm, Fri 9:30-1pm)

Monthly Schedule:

1st Sunday of the month: Community breakfast after service by the Men's Group.

2nd Sunday: Worship Committee meets after service

3rd and 5th Sundays: Make and distribute sandwiches for the Soup Kitchen

4th Sunday: Vestry meets after service

5th Sunday: Morning Prayer service

Special Dates:

10/18: Welcome deacon **Ellen Adams**

11/22: Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Temple B'nai Israel at 1:30, followed by WAIM's annual **Walk for Warmth**. Call 456-7270, ext. 22 or email www.waimct.org for information.

12/5: St. Paul's Christmas bazaar and silent auction. Please volunteer to help with this event. Signup sheet in Parish Hall.

12/20: Community Christmas Memorial Service at 5pm a time to remember those dear to us and no longer with us

12/24: Christmas Eve Service; carol sing at 4:30, service at 5pm

From:

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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Rev. Jaclyn S. Sheldon, Priest-in-charge

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Rev. Ellen Adams, Deacon

Anne Hayes, Senior Warden

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Marianne Eggen, Organist

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Got a question? questions@stpaulswillimantic.org

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www.stpaulswillimantic.org

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TO: