

January 2010

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Messenger

Happy New Year! Happy New Goals!

Reflections by The Rev. Lou Hays

2010 has arrived! I pray the year will bring many blessings to us, individually and as a parish community. 2009 was certainly full of blessings, with the usual share of sadness and difficulties along the way, in our parish, the nation, and the world. One huge blessing during 2009 was our Vision 15: Celebrating St. Paul's process. The Holy Spirit led us in developing, through many, many parishioners, a new Vision and Mission for St. Paul's. We were able to launch the new liturgical year on the First Sunday of Advent with our perpetual Advent Vision of being the most welcoming congregation in the South Hills for all generations, and a longer Mission statement that describes how St. Paul's is a beacon of Christ's love.

Our Vision and Mission will remain front and center throughout 2010, and beyond. Proclaiming a new Vision and Mission and achieving a new Vision and Mission are complementary but not synonymous. In other words, speaking it is good and helpful, but doesn't get us to where God is leading us. As the old saying goes, a vision without a plan is just a dream. Therefore, we are developing Goals and Objectives designed to make our new Vision a reality.

Working on our Goals and Objectives will be a major focus during 2010. Members of the Vestry are working with Dana Phillips, and we have developed the following preliminary list of goals:

- Becoming most welcoming
- Enhanced programs for Christian formation and spiritual development for all ages
- Visibility/Communications
- Liturgy

- Service to each other (Pastoral Care)
- Service to others (Outreach)
- Fellowship
- Resource development
 - ◊ Stewardship
 - ◊ Capital Campaign
 - ◊ Special Projects
 - ◊ Human Resources

Which of these potential Goals is God calling you to get involved with? If you participated in Vision 15, which of your hopes and dreams for St. Paul's are most reflected in these Goals? I invite you to consider this list, and to speak with me, Bob Johnston, or John Sweeney, to let us know of your interest. It will take many people to develop and implement these Goals. God is calling us to great ministry in this parish, but there is far more to do than what the clergy, staff, and Vestry can accomplish on their own. You will be hearing more about our Goals and Objectives in the coming weeks and months.

This will be another exciting year for St. Paul's. We are blessed to be part of this vital and life-changing part of the Kingdom of God. Thanks be to God!

In Christ's love,

Lou+



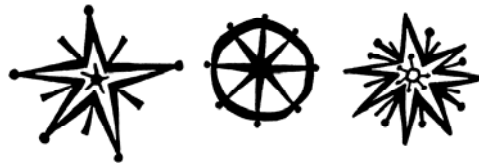
The most welcoming congregation in the South Hills for all generations.



The Rev. Mabel Fanguy: What does the New Year have in store for us?

Soon, the packages will have been unwrapped and put away. Soon, the decorations will be coming down. The memories will have been made and followed by a sigh of relief. Another Christmas will have come and gone. What a blessed time it is; what a hectic time it is. And afterward, our new year stretches out before us like a huge patch of un-walked on snow. What are we going to make of the new year? What does 2010 have in store for us? With what new resolve do we enter the new year? Diets will be started, exercise programs planned. Perhaps a new class or home project. But what about God? Do you have any plans to grow in your relationship with God in this coming year? St. Paul's offers many opportunities throughout the year to grow on your faith journey. There are book studies, bible studies, and Christian Education classes on Sundays and Wednesday evenings. There are many groups that offer opportunities for Spiritual Growth; there are the Daughters of the King, the Choir, Refuge, Stephen Ministries, and the Circles. The Library is full of books, and all of your Clergy are available for one on one conversation to assist you in your growth journey. I encourage you to take advantage of all that St. Paul's has to offer, and place God on the forefront of your plans for the new year.

In Christ's love,
Mabel+



Are you called to be a St. Paul's Vestry Member?

On Saturday, January 30 at the 6:00 service, on Sunday, January 31 at the 8:00 service, and at the annual parish meeting that will take place at approximately 9:40 a.m. following the 8:45 service on January 31, parishioners at St. Paul's will choose some new leaders for the parish.

This is part of our annual tradition of electing one-third of the Vestry, the governing body of this church. The Nominating Committee is looking for a few good women and men of all ages who have the desire to take a leadership role in the implementation of the new Vision and Mission of St. Paul's. Because of the impending resignation of one current Vestry member, we actually need to fill five positions on the Vestry, a wonderful opportunity to bring some "new" blood to church leadership. As a result, we will be electing four parishioners to a full three-year term and one parishioner to fill the final year of the unexpired term of the resigning Vestry member.

Inside this issue:

The Rev. Lou Hays.....	1
The Rev. Mabel Fanguy.....	2
The Rev. Kris Opat	3
Parish Updates.....	3
Youth Happenings	4
Children's Ministry.....	5
Music Notes	6
January Announcements.....	7
Financial Report	insert
Calendar	insert

Could this be an important service that God calls you to do in 2010? No matter your age, your gender, your electoral experience, every member of this parish has some unique skills that could be useful on the Vestry. Please consider this way to serve your parish.

The Vestry Nominating Committee will be meeting in the Lounge on Sunday, January 3 at both 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to answer any questions that you may have about Vestry service or to accept nominations from any parishioner. Nomination (biographical) forms are available at that meeting or in the church office. Nominations close on Sunday, January 10. If you cannot run, please encourage others you know to take on this important mission for our church.

If you have any questions at all, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee—Bob Johnston (chair), Melissa Bailey, Jon Delano, Karen Schneider or Pat Eagon Stafford—or email Bob at rajohnston62@verizon.net.

St. Paul's needs you!

The Rev. Kris Opat: Thinking about our Neighbor



This past month I came across a fascinating article in Orion Magazine entitled “Where Have All the Joiners Gone?” by Bill McKibben. McKibben’s argument is that while we began as a nation of “joiners” – people who came together for a common purpose and with a common identity – we are becoming a loose affiliation of independent family units. He believes that one of the saddest realities of our modern way of life is the impersonal nature of modern living brought on by the industrial revolution.

Until the past 200 years we survived by relying on one another for almost everything. Life was slower and we needed help to complete the most basic tasks. Communities worked together to feed, clothe, and shelter one another. In those days, if you wanted eggs for breakfast, you visited a neighbor who had a chicken. Today our food comes in trucks and our clothes on boats. We will never meet the Chilean farmer who grows our grapes or the Cambodian laborer who makes our T-shirts. The global community is getting bigger and bigger, but our personal community is growing smaller and smaller.

Research shows that when we live on car-filled streets, our number of close friends drops by half and we eat half the meals we used to with friends, family, and neighbors. We now have access to the world and it seems that the consequence is that we are losing the neighborhood in the process.

McKibben, Bill. “Where Have All the Joiners Gone?” Orion Magazine. March/April 2008 (<http://www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/2874/>)



Pat Hurd will travel to Uganda to support our neighbors there at the Blessed Mustard Seed Babies Home, taking with her a quilt made by the 6th grade Sunday School class.

Just the other day I was getting ready to cook dinner and realized my milk had soured. I walked to the corner store, but it was closed and so I ended up cooking something different. I never thought to knock on my neighbor’s door. It used to be that if you needed something basic like some milk or sugar you asked a neighbor for it. Today, we are more likely to head to the nearest convenience store than to our neighbor. One would think it more “convenient” to simply walk next door than drive down the street, but it is becoming less and less so. The industrial revolution has not just revolutionized the way we consume, but also the way we interact.

We are communal creatures by our nature. God created us that way. The Kingdom of God is the children of God coming together, loving one another, welcoming one another into our life as the body of Christ. Yet more often than not, the harder we work, the more we pursue the American Dream, the greater wealth we achieve, the more distant from one another we tend to become.

I share this not to shame anyone or to point the finger. As I shared above, I am chief among culprits. My desire is to get us thinking about our neighbor as we continue to become “the most welcoming congregation in the South Hills for all generations.”

God Bless,
Kris+

Parish Update

Birth Announcements

December 6, 2009

Harrison Scott Miller

son of parishioners Matthew and Nicole Miller

Death Announcements

Peter D. Prunzik

December 1, 2009

father of Jeffrey Prunzik

(spouse of parishioner Melissa Prunzik)

Robert Wissinger

December 9, 2009

of Cleveland, Ohio

brother of Janet Thomas

and brother-in-law of the Rev. John Thomas

Youth Happenings

Epiphany: Light in Winter's Darkness

Epiphany is the celebration of the Three Wise Men going to see Jesus right after he was born. Most everyone in the Christian religion is familiar with this event. The Wise Men followed the bright and shining star to their destination: the newborn King. When we think of this event, two things seem to stick out more than the rest, and they are lights and gifts. That is why this year, with the help of the youth, there will be an Epiphany Celebration on Wednesday, January 6th at 6:30pm.

The night will begin with a traditional advent meal, the focus of which is a King's cake. If you do not know what this delicacy is, come to the celebration and find out! All I'll say is that not only is it a cake, there is also a game tied into it. After we enjoy our meal and cake, we will all proceed to St. Margaret's Garden where you will be illuminated. That is, you'll get a sparkler. This is where the "light" of the night is: our Parade of Lights. Everyone will process, sparklers in hand, from St. Margaret's Garden up to the main entrance of the church. The path will be illuminated by luminaria that were made by the Jr. EYC. We will then enter the church for a wonderful service led by Mabel Fanguy. Here all of us will discover a new meaning to what exactly "gifts" can be. It will be a magnificent celebration of light and gifts, and I hope all of you can join us for it!

After such a joyous celebration of light, no doubt you'll need something fun to keep your family from falling into the winter blues. You're invited to come out for some winter fun with your fellow youth groups throughout the diocese on Saturday, January 23. St. Michael's in the Valley, Ligonier, is hosting the Pittsburgh Youth Initiative for our first ski trip at Seven Springs!

Outline of the day's events:

- 7:00 am: Assemble at St. Paul's and travel to St. Michael's
- 9:00 am: Arrive at St. Michael's and organize groups
- 9:30 am: Morning Prayer
- 10:00 am: Leave for Seven Springs
- 11:00 am-6:00 pm: Skiing/snowboarding fun!
- 7:00 pm: Return to St. Michael's and depart for St. Paul's
- 9:00 pm: Return to St. Paul's

If you are planning on attending this event, please RSVP to Steve no later than Sunday, January 10. The costs for the event are as follows (We have scholarships available through the PYI).

- Lift Ticket: \$45.00
- Ski Rental: \$20.00
- Board Rental: \$32.00
- Ski/Board Lesson: \$20.00

Outside of these two events, we also have our regularly scheduled events. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year's holiday!

January Youth Events

3 - Sunday

9:30 am NO Youth Forum

4 - Monday, 6:00 pm: NO Jr. EYC

6 - Wednesday, 6:30 pm: Epiphany Celebration

10 - Sunday

9:30 am - Youth Forum

12:00 pm - Mission Trip Meeting

11 - Monday, 6:00 pm: Jr. EYC Resumes

13 - Wednesday, 7:00 pm: Sr. EYC Resumes

17 - Sunday

9:30 am Youth Forum

5:00 pm - FOCUS resumes

18 - Monday: NO Jr. EYC

20 - Wednesday: Sr. EYC

23 - Saturday

7:00 am - PYI Ski Trip

24 - Sunday

9:30 am Youth Forum

5:00 pm - FOCUS

25 - Monday: Jr. EYC

27 - Wednesday: Sr. EYC

31 - Sunday

9:30 am Youth Forum

5:00 pm - FOCUS

IT'S YOUR MISSION:

CHOOSE TO ACCEPT

10 JANUARY 12:00 NOON

It is Mission trip decision time! We've narrowed the trip down to 2 potential places and at this meeting we will decide where we are going, and what are next steps in the process are. This is one meeting you won't want to miss! We will meet in the youth room on January 10 at 12:00 noon. See you there!

In Christ,
Steven Hill

Children Ministry

Welcoming all generations... no matter where they are in their spiritual journey

It is with great joy that I greet all of you as the new Interim Director of Children's Ministry. Be warned, my role as Communications Coordinator also began as an "interim" position, so don't be surprised if I end up sticking around.

Actually, I have been stuck around St. Paul's for a long time in many different capacities: parishioner, acolyte, hand-bell ringer, nursery school board member, Sunday School teacher, and so on. St. Paul's is, in fact, the only church I've ever belonged to, the one in which I was confirmed. I still have my Bible from Confirmation Class. Flipping through it, I can see that I must have been a fairly diligent student—many passages are highlighted. Unfortunately, I can't remember *why* I highlighted any of those passages.

In fact—and here I apologize to my Confirmation teachers—I can't remember much from my Confirmation class lessons. I don't remember much of the Confirmation service, except the new white dress I wore. I do have some recollection of Sunday school, and I know certain Bible stories from when I was a child — especially those that were depicted in various Bible storybooks I owned. So, as far as my Christian Education at St. Paul's, I'm admittedly a little hazy about the specifics of what I learned.

And yet... there are things that I *do* remember very clearly. I remember attending EYC with my friends and being scared silly watching an old movie in the dark of the Undercroft. I remember giggling in embarrassment and being thankful that I was hidden in the choir loft when my hand-bell choir cohorts and I got off track. I painfully remember the sound an acolyte robe makes when it gets sucked into a fan (don't ask) and I remember the sweeter sound of the songs we sang, arms-entwined at Calvary Camp.

Basically, I remember the friends, all of those wonderful relationships, that made me feel like I belonged here. Quite simply, I have always belonged to St. Paul's.

And that, folks, is at the heart of my basic philosophy for St. Paul's Children's Ministry. I want to make sure that every child who passes through our doors feels that they belong here, as though this is their second home. I want children and youth to feel welcome here. Always.

Fortunately, this is exactly what our new Vision statement calls us to do: to "...welcome all generations... no matter where they are in their spiritual journey." This means that whether they are squirmy second-grade boys or snarky, sulky adolescent girls, I want them all to feel welcome here. I want them to know that in their faces we see beloved children of God, children made in his image... even when they are squirmy or sulky or worse.

Don't get me wrong... I will do my best to make sure that our children learn from the Bible, appreciate our rich liturgical heritage, celebrate our musical traditions, and understand our beliefs as Episcopalians, Anglicans and Christians. But if they don't remember every detail from their Sunday School lessons, that's ok, too. So long as they are happy to be here, so long as they feel welcome, so long as they have a sense of belonging, I believe we'll be fulfilling God's plan and giving them a good start along that spiritual path.

And finally, I would be remiss without acknowledging that the only reason I'm stepping into this role so smoothly is that I follow a series of GREAT Children's Ministry directors, most recently, Rini Choura. I am so thankful for all that she's done to help me prepare for this role. I'm even more thankful that she isn't going anywhere. If I get myself into a bind, I'll know who to call! I look forward to working with all of our parishioners, teachers, parents and, especially, our fabulous children!

God's Peace,
Lisa Brown





Music Notes from Doug Starr

I want to thank all of our singers and instrumentalists for their splendid musical offerings in Advent and Christmas. Music makes our worship deeply felt and truly joyful. Our splendid music ministers share a profound perspective on music. That is, it is a profound joy to have the heart and skill to make a joyful noise unto the Lord. Please share your thanks for their work when you greet them.

In 2010 we have a wonderful offering of special music in concert and for worship.

The Friends of Music Concert Series resumes in February with monthly concerts until summer. Be sure to mark these concerts on your calendar; you won't want to miss any of them!

Sunday, February 21, 2010

7:00 p.m.

A vocal artist recital by Katy Williams, Soprano and Artist-in-Residence at St. Paul's.

Sunday, March 14, 2010

4:00 p.m.

Jazz Concert with Lee Robinson & Friends Ensemble

A concert by local jazz great, Lee Robinson,
joined by Jazz students from local high school and intermediate schools

Saturday, April 17, 2010

7:00 pm

Durufle's Requiem and other works of Durufle

Performed by the Slippery Rock Choir
joined by the choir of St. Paul's Episcopal Church
led by Dr. Stephen Barr, of Slippery Rock

Accompanied by members of the Slippery Rock Orchestra and
Dr. Richard Elliott, FAGO, and Principal Organist of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir on Organ

Durufle Motets sung by
the Chamber Choir of Slippery Rock University
Organ works performed by Richard Elliott

Sunday, May 2, 2010

4:00 p.m.

Organ Recital

by renown organist Alfred Fedak, FAGO, ChM,
Minister of Music and Arts at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Albany, New York and
Chapel Organist at the Emma Willard School in Troy, New York
and accompanist for the Burnt Hills (NY) Oratorio Society.

Also look for a **Chamber Music Concert** by Pittsburgh Symphony Musicians in June led Tommy Thompson. More details to come!!

If you have any questions about the Friends of Music Concert Series, please contact me or Ginnie Schaap.

January Announcements

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Food Pantry Collection, January 2-3. Non-perishable food items will be collected at all services the week-end of January 2-3. Paper products and health and beauty aids are most welcome. Thank you for your overwhelming support in December.

St. Paul's Wednesday Morning Bible resumes on January 6 and continues at 9:15 a.m. every Wednesday morning in the Conference Room. The Rev. Kris Opat is leading a two-week discussion on *The Beatitudes*.

Come have an Epiphany! St. Paul's is celebrating Epiphany this year with dinner, a parade of lights, and a service! Come to church on **Wednesday, January 6 at 6:30 p.m.** for the start to a wonderful evening where you may learn something new about Epiphany gifts.

Refuge in January – On Wednesday, January 6, join the rest of the St. Paul's community for an Epiphany celebration. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall and continues with worship upstairs in the church at 7:30. We will meet the following week at Bado's on Beverly (Wednesday, January 13) at 6:30 p.m. for food, fun, and fellowship. Bado's is located at 307 Beverly Rd in Mt. Lebanon. We usually meet upstairs, just head up the stairs on the left as soon as you walk in and you will see us. (Note: Refuge will not meet January 20, 27, or February 3).

Claudia Circle, Thursday, January 7. The Rev. Mable Fanguy will be our speaker at the January meeting of Claudia Circle. She will share with us her journey toward the priesthood. If you have never been to a Claudia Circle meeting, you are most welcome. We meet in the lounge at 1:00 p.m. and start with a light lunch.

Book Club meets January 8 at 1:00 p.m. in the Lounge. The book is *The Likeness*, by Tana French. February's selection is *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder.

Stephen Ministers—A training class for new Stephen Ministers will begin on Saturday, January 9, 2010. If you think you might be called to this ministry or if you would like more information please contact Deacon Sandra Ritchie at 412-835-7176.

New Adult Formation Series beginning Sunday, January 10. We begin this new year with a new adult formation series, "Liturgy for Living: exploring the theology and practice of *The Book of Common Prayer*." The Episcopal Prayer Book is full of beauty and deep theology, but few Episcopalians have explored the treasures that it holds. Join the Rev. Kris Opat and the Rev. Mabel Fanguy in the back of the Parish Hall at 9:30 a.m. as we explore this wonderful book. (This program is especially appropriate for any who attended the Episcopal 101 newcomer class in December).

It is Mission trip decision time! We've narrowed the trip down to two potential places and at this meeting we will decide where we are going, and what are next steps in the process are. This is one meeting you won't want to miss! We will meet in the youth room on January 10 at 12:00 noon. See you there!

Study breaks resume meeting - **EYC Study breaks are done until the new year.** Jr. EYC Study breaks will resume meeting on Monday, January 11 at 6:00pm and Sr. EYC Study breaks will resume meeting on Wednesday, January 13 at 7:00 p.m. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism will be celebrated on Sunday, January 10 at the 10:30 service. This First Sunday after the Epiphany, the Baptism of Our Lord, is one of the days that the Church sets aside as particularly appropriate for Baptism. Anyone interested in baptism should call or email the Rector at 412-531-7153, ext. 11, or Lou@stpaulspgh.org. There will be a preparation session and rehearsal for parents and godparents on Saturday, January 9 at 4:00 p.m.

Wednesdays at St. Paul's resumes on January 13 with an exploration of the Gospel of Luke. Join us for this fascinating journey through the Gospel of Luke, which we will hear read and preached on most Sundays during the current liturgical year. Luke is famous for its emphasis on prayer, women, the Holy Spirit, the poor, and the right use of wealth. Learn more about great stories found only in Luke, such as the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son. The program begins Wednesday, January 13 at 7:15 p.m., following an optional dinner at 6:30. The five-week series led by the Rev. Lou Hays concludes Wednesday, February 10. No prior Biblical experience necessary.

Vestry Candidate Forum: Please join us on Sunday, January 17 at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to meet the slate of Vestry candidates for 2010. Each candidate will answer one or two questions from the moderator and then address any questions that you may have. We have a talented group of parishioners who are willing to serve, so please come and hear what they have to say so that you are an informed voter on January 31. Thanks to all of our candidates for their interest in serving the parish.

FOCUS will be resuming on Sunday, January 17 at 5:00 p.m. Focus will provide the opportunity for any Sr. EYC member to come and discuss issues that are more down to earth and personal to the individual. The setting will be extremely casual and what we discuss will be determined by the people who attend and what they want to talk about. We will meet most Sundays from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m.

PYI Seven Springs - **Come play on the slopes** for the day with the Pittsburgh Youth Initiative. Saturday, January 23 we will meet at the church at 7:00am and plan on returning around 8:30 p.m. RSVPs **MUST BE MADE BY** January 10 at the latest! Prices vary depending on what activities you have in mind, so please contact Steve for more information at 412-531-7153 x18 or shill@stpaulspgh.org.

Pastoral Care 24/7 Hotline Reminder—In the event of a pastoral emergency such as serious illness, injury or death, call 412-337-7667, day or night, seven days a week. The clergy person on call will either answer or return your call as soon as possible.

January Worship Schedule

Saturday	6:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II <i>Chapel</i>
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite I <i>Chapel</i>
	8:45 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II <i>Church with music and homily</i>
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II <i>Church with music, sermon, & healing prayers</i>
Wednesday	10:30 a.m.	Intercessory Prayer
	11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite I <i>Chapel with homily & healing prayers</i>

The church offices will be closed on Friday, January 1.

The clergy and staff wish everyone a Blessed, Healthy and Happy New Year!

Office Hours

Monday — Friday
8:30 am — 4:30 pm

Financial Office

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
7:30 am — 12:30 pm

Communications

Coordinator
Monday–Friday
1:00 pm—5:00 pm

Director of Children's

Ministry
Monday–Friday
1:00pm—5:00pm

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