



THE COURIER

January 2012 Volume 5, Issue 1

Calendar

January 4, 11,
18 & 25 -
Eucharist &
Bible Study

January 7-
St. Luke's /
San Lucas
Soup Kitchen

January 10-
Vestry Meeting

January 24-
Outreach Meeting

When a Rector Leaves

Emotional. That's probably the most apt descriptor of the state of things when a rector announces that he/she is leaving a parish. There's emotion

The Rector's Corner

on both sides because rectors leave for lots of reasons. Some leave for bigger parishes or get elected bishop. Some leave for family reasons or just want to move to a different part of the world. Some leave because of conflict with their leadership, while others leave because the bishop makes them. No matter what the reasons are that a rector leaves there are emotions all around; sad, happy, angry, proud, incredulous, apathetic, bitter, jaded, hopeful and many, many more.

Sometimes there are simple reasons for a rector's departure, but more often than not the reason for departure is this strangely amorphous thing Christians name 'call'. We use the term in the Church all of the time, but call is a very strange thing. It's hard to tack down, and much of the emotional

energy around a priest's departure is wrapped up in this notion of call; the priest hears it, but the parish may not have heard a thing. The priest explains the call, but the congregation (filled with individuals who also have the capacity to hear the call of God) comes along at its own speed in discerning what has been laid before them as the genuine voice of God.

So what is call? Why does the church use this word, and why does it produce so much emotion in the priest and in the parish? How do we as Episcopalians use the word in comparison with other Christian traditions? Call refers most simply to the voice of God. Christians believe that much of God's activity with humankind over the past millenia has been negotiated through divine speech. Our God talks. God talked to Adam and Eve in the garden, called Noah to build an ark, called Moses in a burning bush, called the prophet Samuel as a little child to

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THE JOURNEY INWARD

When a Rector Leaves (cont.)

serve in the Temple, called Jesus to be tempted in the wilderness, and called St. Paul to move from city to city planting new churches. We believe our God speaks.

Wrapped up in our notion of call are two things: God's call of individuals and God's call of communities. As the previous examples from scripture show us, God is in the business of calling individuals to serve in all sorts of capacities. But all of those calls presuppose that God knows what God is doing. God is doing the calling, and the individual (skeptical at times) is listening and responding. Call comes to each and every one of us for a certain work within a certain context for a certain time. Noah's ark was built for one flood, and Moses led the people out of Egypt but not into the promised land. We as individual and unique human beings have the capacity to be called by God, and I would argue that we are all being called by God if we're willing to listen.

The second notion of call lives in the call of God to a community. Individuals are called into community with one another, but there is another marker of call that collectivizes the call of those individuals. St. Paul uses the metaphor of a "body" to speak about the community of Christ. The "body" is called to enact the work that God calls it to by utilizing all of the various gifts that God has given to the individuals in the community. But, just as the individual must come to understand the unique call on his/her life, the community of call (the Church) must come to understand that it too has a call that must be heeded. The community has a unified call that embodies the totality of individual calls of which it is made up. We each have a call from God, but that call requires a community which also has a call.

That's where it gets messy for priests. Priests, in the Episcopal Church, are ordained priests for the whole Church. This means that those of us who wear collars are called for ministry to and among the larger body of the Church. Our larger Episcopal Church (a community of communities with its own call) calls priests to serve the various communities that comprise its common life. Priests serve sometimes for years and sometimes for decades in one community, but always with the understanding that their call as priests is to serve within the larger community of the Church. One of my great joys of ministry at St. Paul's has been to connect St. Paul's with St. Luke's in Chelsea, MA. Yes, this is for furthering our parish outreach, but more than that. Our relationship with St. Luke's is a sign for the larger Church of parish communities working together for the larger call of the Church.

And this is, I'm afraid, where the emotional pieces hit hardest. Navigating the waters between our individual calls, the calls of parish community, and the call of the larger church create tension. My work as your rector would end one day whether from the cross town bus or my election as Patriarch of Constantinople. My call would continue to be a call to ministry within the Church,

THE JOURNEY OUTWARD

When a Rector Leaves (cont.)

but the locality of that call would change. The call of the parish would continue to be as a gathering point of Christians for a fuller expression of individual gifts for God's glory in the world. As the rector is seen often times as essential to the call of a parish it might seem that either the priest is wrong about his/her call away, or the parish has been wrong in its sense of call and the work it's been engaged in. That tension creates emotions. "The priest is leaving what do we do? That priest stinks 'cause he should have stayed longer! I'm really happy for the priest, but I'm not sure I'm happy for us." So on and so forth. The truth is very different than these. The truth lies in the fact that both the call of the priest to leave and the call of the community to the work that it has been part of during the rector's tenure are both true. The rector's call to leave, and the call of the community to the work it has been engaged are both divine calls. They are calls to different things. The priest is called to a different work in the larger community of the church, and the parish is called to deepen its life of faith and ministry in the name of Jesus Christ within a given context.

Call is an emotional thing because of this very tension. I've felt it throughout my ministry long before I was ordained to the priesthood. I remember keenly the fear I had when I first told my father that I was leaving university to study theology. Dad had an idea of what I was called to, and I had an idea of what I was called to, and they weren't the same thing. Since then I've learned that call belongs to God, and we serve not only a God who speaks, but a God who is faithful in calling and seeing a call fulfilled. I have faith that God holds both my future and the future of this parish in hands far stronger than mine or even yours. I have faith that God isn't done with the great work God has begun and energized in this place. I have faith that call is God's work, and that we are all called to serve the world in Christ's name.

~Fr. Mike

February 19th

Father Mike's last service at St. Paul's will be on Sunday, February 19th.

The schedule for the day is as follows:

9:00 a.m. - Said Holy Eucharist - Rite II

3:00 p.m. - Liturgy with The Rt. Rev. Gayle Harris

A going away gathering will be held immediately following the 3:00 p.m. service.

More details will be available soon..

THE JOURNEY INWARD

Life Can Turn on a Dime

Anyone who has seen my bookcases knows I'm a huge Stephen King fan. I am what Mr. King terms a "constant reader". I find *The Stand* to be an uplifting book and really think Molly Ringwald was a terrible choice for Frannie in the 1990's mini series. His latest book *11/22/63* wasn't typical King by any stretch. Sure, there was some time travel, there was some bleak stuff, there was a bit of a love story. Oh, and taking into account the title, there was Kennedy and a book depository. Mostly, there was an oft used phrase that stuck with me that is suddenly quite poignant. "Life can turn on a dime"

Over the past few years, I have been working with Fr. Mike to help our parish grow: Both in terms of numbers and faith. In my last annual report piece, I excitedly talked about it being like building a plane at 40,000 feet. When Fr. Mike first told me he felt he was being called away to St. Mark's School of Texas, after the phrase "life can turn on a dime" ran through my head, my next thought was that the plane was going into a nosedive. But after some time, and some thinking and much prayer, I truly believe this plane can not only fly, but soar.

We are in a much better place than we were five years ago when we began the process that called Fr. Mike. There are more of us, our pledging numbers are decent, the building is in great shape and don't forget the new septic system. We have established programs and committees. We are about to enter a new phase, and as intimidating as it may seem at times, it is exciting. Discernment is going to be our new catch phrase. The discernment survey got us all thinking about what we love about SPEC and what we want more of. Five years ago we were trying to decide if we wanted to stay open full time. Fr. Mike has brought us to a healthy and vibrant place, but he hasn't done it alone. WE have done it together as a parish! We have so much to offer, both to ourselves and someone who might be called to be our next rector.

So as I go into year three as Senior Warden, my focus must change. Instead of weekly meetings with Fr. Mike, I may find myself wearing my dress up clothes and meeting at the cathedral or interviewing an interim priest. In addition to a Pentecost pig roast I'll be concerned with planning the annual vestry retreat. Life can turn on a dime.

So my ministry focus must change, but the role remains the same. As a parish, our short term goals may change, but we remain a faith-filled parish. This new ministry focus as Senior Warden isn't what I imagined, but sometimes you need to play the hand you are dealt. And at the end of the day, God is still God and we are still Saint Paul's. We are nothing but blessed to be where we are. And yes, life can turn on a dime but it doesn't need to be a bad turn. And with all of us together, and with God's help, we can look to the future in confidence.

~Abbe Moore, Sr. Warden

THE JOURNEY INWARD

St. Paul's Carolers Hit the Street



It was a cold night for singing, but that didn't stop the enthusiastic group of about 20 carolers – nearly half of them children – who took to the streets of Lynnfield and Peabody on December 26 to bring a little Christmas cheer to friends at home. Piling into four cars, the group traveled caravan-style to about 10 homes over a two-hour period, singing a variety of Christmas carol favorites and wishing St. Paul's parishioners joys of the season.

This was the second time in recent history that St. Paul's has organized a Christmas caroling event. In 2009, the tradition was brought back and proved to be such a success that people asked for it again. Unfortunately, in 2010, a two-day snowstorm forced a cancellation, but the weather this year was dry and just cold enough to limit the carols to two verses each so we could get back in the warm cars!

Many thanks to the Simoneaus, Vaths, and Plantes, who brought all the kids; to the Shafners for their GPS and route consultation, and for making rolling "warning calls" to our carolees; to all our other singers, the Masons (who brought a neighbor along), Abbe Moore, Sheila Callaghan; and to Gayle Richardson and family who rewarded us all with refreshments at the end of the evening. Thanks to all!

Outreach Volunteer & Community Opportunities

Saint Luke's Soup Kitchen:

Saturday, January 7th

Saturday, February 4th

Saturday, March 3rd

Contact Jen Vath,

jennifer.vath@gmail.com

Habitat for Humanity:

Contact Carl Ogren,

ogrenc@earthlink.net

Thank You

Dear St. Paul's Parishioners,

Thank you for the meals, cards, hugs, kind words and prayers. Your support meant a great deal to my family during a very difficult time. I would also like to thank those who helped Fr. Mike out in the office during my unexpected absence. The support I have received at St Paul's over the ten years I have worked here is overwhelming and I am forever grateful for it.

~Lauren, Nick and Alex

THE JOURNEY TOGETHER

St. Paul's Volunteer Calendar—January 2012

	January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
Acolytes		Alex Ofori James Ofori Ben Vath	Adannia Nwangwu Nnenna Nwangwu Sydney Johnian	Joshua Mentzer Spencer May Stephen May	Nathan Huebschmann Sam Huebschmann
Lay Readers 8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	LEM Jim Rosato Lector Alex Ofori	LEM LEM Carolyn Shea Lector Holly Bourdon	LEM LEM Peggy Hansen Lector Kevin Scheeler	LEM Barbara Savage LEM Sue Mentzer Lector Priscilla March	LEM Carl Ogren LEM Carl Ogren Lector Mike Bunar
Ushers	Abbe Moore & Jessica Faulkner	Susan Cafazzo & Ken Rosenthal	Shirley & Evan Colton	Gail & Ed Purtz	Gretchen & David Garlow
Altar Guild	Team One	Team Two	Team Three	Team Four	Team One
Flowers		In memory of Edward Foley & Betty Purtz by Gail & Ed Purtz	In memory of Richard H. Stowe by Barbara Stowe and Dr. William Hayden by Antonetta Buccella	In memory of Kevin Ahearn by Katie Ahearn	In memory of Caroline Plaisted by Gail & Ed Purtz
Coffee Hour		Kathleen Manoogian	Nancy & Frank Anderson	Sheila Callaghan Amy Council	Winnie & Victor Nwangwu
Anniversaries				Gail & Ed Purtz	Nancy & Frank Anderson
Birthdays		Barbara Belliveau Samantha Ogren Keely Palmer Ken Rosenthal Edward Ho	Owen Kuzara Patrick Barrett	Jamie Kassiotis William Rinaldi Tom Bourdon Heather DeNisco Victor Nwangwu Nancy Olsen	Adannia Nwangwu Joseph Garlow Gail Purtz Caroline Sacca Bob Sorrentino Jake Bellucci
Recycling	Priscilla March	David Manoogian	Carl & Martha Ogren	Sue Mentzer	Jim Vath

THE JOURNEY TOGETHER

Doorkeepers Needed



Three doorkeepers are needed each Sunday for Sunday School. The dates are as follows:

February: 5, 12 & 19

March: 4, 11, 18 & 25

If you need an explanation as to what a doorkeeper does or would like to sign up for one of the weeks, please contact Caroline Sacca, sundayschool@stpaulslynnfield.org.

Annual Meeting

St. Paul's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 5th following the 10:00 a.m. service. Please try to attend this very important meeting.

Note: Annual Reports should be submitted to the office no later than Monday, January, 23rd in order to have enough time to put the entire report together before the meeting on the 5th.

Staff and Vestry

Clergy and Staff

Rector	The Rev. Michael B. Dangelo	781-334-4594
	For after hour emergencies only	781-910-6922
Organist	Kathleen Surette	
Bethlehem School Director	Carmelina Padovani	781-334-6436
Administrative Assistant	Lauren Ferrari	781-334-4594

Vestry Officers

Senior Warden	Abbe Moore	781-334-2377
Junior Warden	Richard Shafner	781-334-6478
Treasurer	Kwame Ofori-Asante	781-334-7229
Clerk	Carl Ogren	781-334-6705

Vestry Members

Katie Ahearn		978-531-0468
Sue Cafazzo		781-334-0198
Brian Croxon		781-334-6518
Jessica Faulkner		781-405-6810
Gretchen Garlow		781-342-5130
Jim Rosato		781-245-0161
Barbara Savage		781-334-4430
Chris Simoneau		781-334-2194
Jim Vath		781-334-6098

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(for after hour emergencies only)
Website: www.stpaulslynnfield.org
Email: office@stpaulslynnfield.org



Don't Forget!



Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 5th
following the 10 am Service