

The Good News

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Suffering Followed by Rebirth and Renewal

(Greetings! Fear not. The headline is not a draft notice. Rather I sincerely hope that the following words signal that a troubling time is coming to a close and that St. Paul's is back on track toward a brighter future.

The following message from our junior warden, Robin Weisbrod, is perfectly timed for Lent. Lent (unless I am VERY mistaken) is the season where Christians remember Christ's suffering and execution, but at the same time look forward to Easter and the promise that comes with Christ's rising and defeat of death itself. Even this Jewish newsletter editor can appreciate a certain parallel with our congregation. Having endured a troubling time we have pulled together, regrouped and are now poised to embark on a new and brighter future. Great change rarely happens overnight. Even after suffering on the cross, enduring death and coming back, Jesus STILL had to hang around for forty days before he could ascend to heaven. —Dan Rapp, editor)

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Chittenango, New York exists to restore all people to unity with each other and with God in Jesus Christ.

First, the Vestry, Don Lee and I, wish to thank all who were part of the Annual Meeting in January and showed support in our ability to lead St. Paul's to its future. That being said, we need to formulate, plan and implement our mission for the Church. We hope, no, we expect your input on what you want to see as our mission in the world.

Is our mission to hold dear our traditions, our size, to look inward and care only for us? Or is our mission to hold dear our traditions, to look to the future, to care for us AND for those outside of us. Care for those with whom we may not have anything in common but the love of God's Word. Care for those not only in our local neighborhood, but also in the county, the state, the U.S. and the world. Can we stretch ourselves and live into the commandments: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments"?(Matt. 22:37-40)

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Do you? Do you hear the Gospel that is meant for YOU, not the person in the other pew? Perhaps we need to discuss the Gospel during Coffee Hour each Sunday to see if everyone is hearing the same thing, or even close to it.

"Love your neighbor as yourself." Even if you strongly disagree with another parishioner, that interloper, you are COMMANDED to love (and respect) your neighbor as yourself.

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Robin's message-Continued.

Are we living up to that Commandment? Or are we failing as a Church. Are we honest with ourselves? Do we hold others to a higher standard than ourselves? I honestly don't know. But, I do know that if we acknowledge we are all human, all sinners and all failing our Covenant, then maybe we can find our way back to God and ourselves, to be forgiven again and again.

Finding our way will be painful, that I can promise. But, anything worth fighting for is painful. Change will happen, and it begins with us. ALL of us. We have to be willing to acknowledge our part in all that happens at St. Paul's -- good and bad. We have to take what happens, learn from it and move forward. There is no room at the table for hidden agendas, for ongoing gossip, for triangulation. We need room for spiritual growth, love and forgiveness. If God could forgive us for calling for the crucifixion of his Son, then we can certainly forgive our parish family members for their transgressions.



A very special THANK YOU to Bishop Skip Adams for taking time out of his busy schedule to visit St. Paul's this past January 18 and participate in our annual meeting. For anyone who might not be aware The Episcopal Diocese of Central New York (of which St. Paul's is a part) oversees no fewer than 90 congregations spread out over a very large section of the state.

SPECIAL REQUEST

Anyone who is interested in hosting the Coffee Hour is asked to please contact Sue Gerling to set up a Sunday that will be convenient for you. She can be reached at 315-687-3791.

Editor's Note: As a Registered Nurse I can tell everyone here that a little flour, butter, sugar, caffeine and love can make any day a little brighter! Not feeling the love? No problem! Just sample your own product! (Fruits and veggies are also welcome!)

Holy Week Schedule

- **Palm Sunday** March 29, 9:00 AM with the Passion led by Father Grover
- **Maundy Thursday**, April 2, 6:00 PM - A Simple Soup Supper; 7:00 PM - The Stations of the Cross, followed by the Traditional Stripping of the Altar.
- **Good Friday**, April 3, 7:00 PM - Good Friday Service with Lay leader
- Saturday, April 4, 1:00 PM - **Easter Party** with an Easter Egg Hunt. All ages are invited!! Bring a neighbor!!
- **Easter Sunday**, April 5, 9:00 AM - Easter Service led by Father Grover.

March Birthdays

3~ Ed Hoffman	21~Angelina Lacen
7~ Karl Chappell	21~Darryl Tarbell
7~ Bryce Oviedo	25~Phil Randall
11~Pat Stucker	25~Aiyana Tarbell
12~Katherine Weisbrod	26~Joanne Furtado
13~Angelito Lacen	28~David Acton

Anniversaries

25~David and Sallie Acton

April Birthdays

4~ Michael Furtado	18~Joan Grover
6~ Pamela Hobbs	19~ Brandon Raymond
7~ Tim Hobbs	21~Woody Woodworth
7~ Jason Randall	22~April Boyle
8~ Ethan Agans	23~Scott Titus
9~ Theresa Blasier	25~Sue Huebler
11~Courtney Furtado	26~Shelby Just
14~Sue Gerling	26~Hanna Stanton
15~Jan Woodworth	28~Chris Winters
16~Kara Marie Agans	30~Matthew Furtado
18~Heather Ladd	30~Steven Just

Anniversaries

13~ Tim and Pam Hobbs
 15~ Justin and Colleen Benjamin
 17~ Todd and Betty Wood
 25~ Mike and Joanne Furtado

Prayer List

Alexza, Eric Baker (Courtwright request), Ron Barber, Lynda Blaziaa (Gerling request), Jason Ceresoli (Furtado request), Patricia Chavanne (Barber request), Leisha Doherty (Tedford request), Billy Dougan (Montgomery request), Colleen Eggers (Tarbell request), Richard Fife, Joanne Furtado, Joan Grover, Christopher Hartig (Grover request), Terry Hoffman (Hoffman request), Kaylee Kraus, Yurie Rosenfeld (Gerling request), Jessie Salisbury (Furtado request), Andy Stokes (Hilts request), Angela Stucker (Pokorny request), Joe Williams, Ruth Williams, Zoey Zavodsky (Williams request)

