



**1836-2016  
180 Years of Ministry**

**Our Mission:  
God in our hearts;  
Light to our path;  
Home for all.**



The Rt. Rev. Porter G. Taylor  
*Bishop of the Diocese of WNC*

The Rev. Ann Dieterle  
*Rector*

The Rev. Dn. Susan Whittington  
*Deacon*

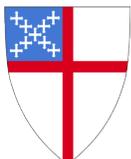
Rachel Minick  
*Director of Children, Youth,  
& Family Ministries*

Lynne Sturdivant  
*Administrative Assistant*

Carla Bowers  
*Choir Director*

Ramona Curtis  
*Organist*

Roosevelt Carlton  
*Sexton*



## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

# EPISTLE

## January 2016



### **A Message From The Rector**

It happens every year. It's always just after Thanksgiving when I go to buy a half gallon carton of milk and it has an expiration date sometime in the next calendar year. And I look at it and wonder "where has the year gone?!" At this point I shouldn't be surprised anymore by how quickly time passes. But I am.

I'm writing this on the Winter Solstice, also known as 'the longest night.' On this night we have the shortest amount of daylight than at any other day during the year. I suspect that 'the longest night' has a more figurative meaning for some, too. For anyone who has lost a loved one or who is struggling and suffering during the holiday season,

the nights are indeed long. Especially when everyone else around them is joyful and celebrating. (or so it seems)

The flip side of the longest night of course is that now the days are getting longer. How fitting is it that we celebrate the birth of Jesus in this setting? And this Christmas will be particularly special since we'll also have a full moon for the first time in almost 40 years.

I wish you all the best for 2016. Happiness and joy. Health and peace. But more than that I pray that this year you are given the opportunity to grow in your relationship to Christ.

Happy New Year.  
Ann

### **Upcoming Adult Education Rector's Forum: Sunday, January 10th**

#### **"A Conversation about the Prevention of Gun Violence" Beginning Sunday January 31st**

**When: 9:30am on 1/31, 2/7, 2/14, and 2/28**

While we may not all agree about everything related to the Second Amendment, I know that we can "claim common ground against gun violence." (to borrow a phrase used by the Episcopal Bishops United Against Gun Violence)

The purpose of this time together is to have a respectful, fact-based discussion about gun violence and how we might respond as a Church.

We will be using materials designed by the Episcopal Peace Fellowship to guide our conversation.

#### **Fiscal Affairs Open Meeting**

**Tuesday, January 12, 2016 in the Parish House at 6:00pm**

The Fiscal Affairs Committee invites all parishioners to an open meeting.

The purpose is to present the Church financial statements and the approved 2016 Budget.

This will give the opportunity to ask questions and provide a more in depth look at our financial standing.

The budget will be included with the printed materials at the annual meeting.

The usual business of the committee will also be conducted.

Everyone is welcome.

**The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 24th.** One worship service at 9:30am. The meeting will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following the service.



## Children, Youth, & Family Ministries

**Happy 2016 to you all!**

Thank you to the children and youth who participated in the Christmas Pageant, you were all wonderful! A huge thank you to the parent and grandparent volunteers who helped with directing, costuming, props, and angel/animal corralling.

This month I am working to update medical information, releases, and interest surveys for each child/youth in our program. These will be available to be picked up by family last name in the

commons. We have several events this month which are noted in the Children, Youth, and Families calendar. We are going to try something new with youth nights, having Middle School youth come from 5:00-6:30pm and High School youth from 6:00-7:30pm. The youth will fellowship together with a meal from 6:00-6:30pm. You can sign up for the ski trip and/or movie night in the Commons or by emailing me at [stpauscyfm@gmail.com](mailto:stpauscyfm@gmail.com).



Rachel Minick

### CHILDREN & YOUTH EVENTS

January 10: Jr. EYC 5:00-6:30pm  
Sr. EYC 6:00-7:30pm  
January 18: Jr. & Sr. EYC Ski Trip

January 24: Family Dinner & Movie Night 5:00-7:00pm  
January 31: Jr. EYC 5:00-7:00pm  
Sr. EYC 6:00-7:30pm



### Confirmation Class aka Inquirers Class aka How to Be An Episcopalian 101



The Bishop will be coming to St. Paul's on Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. Anyone who wishes to be Confirmed, Reaffirmed, or Received (see definitions below) can do so on that day. Anyone desiring to participate in these rites will first have to attend a class in preparation for the occasion. I will be offering these on two separate days and times:

Sundays at 12 noon beginning on January 10th in the youth room and  
Wednesdays at 7 pm beginning on January 13th in the library (below the Sanctuary)

Sunday classes will be geared toward youth while Wednesday classes will be geared towards adults. Each class will run roughly an hour.

*All are welcome to attend*, even if you aren't seeking to be Confirmed (or Reaffirmed, or Received). This class might be for you if:

- You want to know more about the Bible or the Prayer Book
- You've ever panicked at a part in the service when you're not sure whether to stand, sit, or kneel
- You wonder why Pastor Ann and Deacon Susan wear those funny robes

Please contact Ann at: [rector@stpaulwilkesboro.org](mailto:rector@stpaulwilkesboro.org) or 336-667-4231 if you plan to attend.

I know that some have already taken a confirmation class but have not yet been confirmed. If this is true for you, please let me know that as well.

Confirmation- The sacramental rite in which persons "express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop." (Prayer Book, pg. 860)

Reception- Baptized persons who have been confirmed in another Christian denomination and who wish to be formally affiliated with the Episcopal Church may make a public affirmation of their faith and receive the laying on of hands by the Bishop.

Reaffirmation- a ritual where with the laying on of hands, those who have already been confirmed and/or received in the Episcopal Church reaffirm their faith and the promises they have made.

## CHEZ PAUL

This Fall we've had a great response to the call for volunteers to sponsor a Wednesday night dinner as a fundraiser for a ministry about which they care deeply. The food has been great, and the attendance has been wonderful, too.

However, it seems that it's not going to be sustainable to do this on a weekly basis. The parish life committee has prayed and discussed how to move forward, and the conclusion that we came to is to do Chez Paul once a month on the first Wednesday and make it extra special. The 5:30pm Eucharist will continue on Wednesdays on a regular schedule. We will do something special and different on the first Wednesday of the month for our liturgy as well.

This will be our schedule from January through May. It may not be permanent. One thing that I've learned in 10 years is that every ministry has its life span, and some things come and go and then come back. It's a resurrection cycle of sorts. This gives us time to see what the Holy Spirit is up to and the opportunity to make room for it.

As far as the nitty gritty details go: January and February are already claimed. If you would be interested in hosting a meal for March, April, or May, please contact Lynne in the office.

## COFFEE CLUB

Looking for more than a simple cup of coffee? Come explore a different approach to Sunday School each Sunday at 9:30am, downstairs in the Parish House. Have an imported cup of coffee, even if it's just from Charlotte, and interesting conversation that sometimes follows a short video. Contact Jeff Beard at [beard1996@gmail.com](mailto:beard1996@gmail.com) or 336-667-5930 with any questions.

## ECW



Twenty women came and enjoyed our Christmas Luncheon on December 14th. The food was delicious and everyone enjoyed playing "Dirty Santa."

Our January Meeting will be held at the **Olive Garden January 11th at 12:00noon**. The program will be Devin Lyall speaking to us about "*Phases Recovery Center & Transitional Living*." This is certainly something that we desperately need in Wilkes and we are so proud of Devin in her efforts to get it started. Hope to see you there!

For more information about ECW contact Gwen Temple at [GT1116@aol.com](mailto:GT1116@aol.com) or 336-984-6469.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast will be cooked and served by the men of St. Paul's on **Sunday, January 17 from 8:00-10:15am** in the Parish House. **A donation of \$5.00 per person to cover our cost is appreciated.** Come join your fellow parishioners for delicious food and fellowship.

If you would like to get involved with the Men's Breakfast, please contact Ken Canter at [rkencanter@aol.com](mailto:rkencanter@aol.com).

## PSALM 150

Psalm 150 will be meeting on **Thursday, January 14th at 7:00pm in the Parish House** If you enjoy making music and singing, please join us for fellowship and jamming.

For more information contact Joe Fesperman at [joefesperman@yahoo.com](mailto:joefesperman@yahoo.com) or 336-667-3594.

## Dish Cloth Project

Attention all knitters, we need knitted dish cloths for our project. We are giving them to Safe House and the Assistance program.

If you are not a knitter and want to participate we will need travel size bottles of shampoo, conditioners, lotion, toothpaste, body wash,



baby powder, etc.

If you knit and need a pattern for the cloths or if you have any questions please contact Carol Canter at 838-9122 or 566-1311 or e-mail at [ccanter123@gmail.com](mailto:ccanter123@gmail.com).

## Thanks to Crisis Assistance

By Rose and friends of the Wilkes County Community!

We appreciate coming to the Crisis Assistance ministry at St. Paul's every Thursday because it provides an opportunity for us to go out in the community to work on manners, social skills and appropriate interactions with others in the community. We come every Thursday when the ministry is open to the public. For some of us, it's a hot meal and encounters with smiling and welcoming faces. We enjoy being welcomed.

Some of us are shut ins and gives us an opportunity to encourage us to come out with others in the community and provides us with the opportunity for engagement with others in the community. We appreciate a hot meal and opportunity for bread and other food that's available to us to help us with our limited resources to bring food home. We love the clothes closet to go through and pick out clothes we need. Also, it's nice the other treats are available too.

We really enjoy being welcomed and the warm smiles and hellos given to us. Some understand how important it is to feel welcomed in the community. We really appreciate the Crisis Assistance ministry and all the resources there for us. Some of us have received utility resources when we ran out of kerosene to heat our homes. Some of us received information that was vital for us to know where we could possibly get housing or other resources in the community. We so very much appreciate being welcomed to come back each week. We thank you all for all you do for us all in our community! We have very much gratitude for the services available and the helping hand given to us all with all the warm smiles and welcoming hellos!

Thank you for all you do!

## Celebrate...

### BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

#### Birthdays

2 Bryan Will  
2 Franz Yale  
3 Denver Owens  
5 TJ Wilkie  
6 Teri Ferree  
6 Joe Manolovich  
8 Ann Willardson  
9 Ken Love  
10 Claudia Eller  
10 Joel Faw  
10 Shirley Sturdivant  
12 Erin Southwell  
13 Jake Gentry  
13 Jennifer Nardini

14 Russ Ferree  
14 Marilyn Payne  
15 Peggy Harwell  
16 Ray Barger  
16 Rachel Minick  
18 Ann Davis  
18 Michael Day  
20 Luci Smoak  
21 Rosamond Racey  
22 Ruth Harris  
24 Jeanne Loflin  
24 Andrew Scroggs  
24 Laura Welborn  
25 Vincent Beam

25 Rebecca Caudill  
25 Jennifer Lankford  
25 Paul Ovitt  
26 John Willardson  
27 Bud Wansley  
28 Marianne Beamon  
30 Doug Merritt

#### Anniversaries:

4 Edward & Erin Southwell  
25 Mike & Beth Graf  
25 Patrick Zander & Teri Canter  
26 Richard & Amanda Barber

(If you see mistakes or omissions, please contact the office at [office@stpaulwilkesboro.org](mailto:office@stpaulwilkesboro.org))

## VESTRY MINUTES

*Vestry Meetings are open to members of the parish to observe. To have something put on the agenda and address an issue that you would like speak to, the protocol is to contact one of the Vestry. The Vestry person or Rev. Ann will connect you to the appropriate Liaison to determine if the item should come to Vestry or might be better served by one of the committees. Agenda items for each Vestry meeting are sought two weeks in advance of the meeting.*

### **Approved Minutes from November 22, 2015 Vestry Meeting:**

**Members Present:** Mark Cook, Naomi Faw, Chuck Forester, Cynthia Palazzolo, Drew Mayberry, Maggie McCann, Sandra Elledge, Tony Lyall, Tim Murphy, Rev. Ann Dieterle, Rev. Dn. Susan Whittington

**Others Present:** Joe Richardson, Bill Harris

Rev. Ann called the meeting to order at 11:53am with prayer. Drew Mayberry read a meditation.

**October Meeting Minutes:** Rev. Deacon Susan made a motion that was seconded by Tony Lyall to approve the October Meeting Minutes. The motion passed.

**Financial Report:** Joe Richardson advised that we are doing fine. Income is below budget for the month but he feels confident for the rest of the year. Expenses were below budget for the month and YTD. Convention expenses were up and will be reviewed. Our cash position is very good. The Underwood Estate funds of \$480,000 will be transferred to a savings account at Great State Bank. Chuck Forester made a motion that was seconded by Drew Mayberry to approve the financial report. The motion passed.

**Jr. Warden:** Drew Mayberry advised that repairs/maintenance and yard maintenance in property expenses are above budget YTD. Many issues have been addressed by the building and grounds committee.

**Sr. Warden:** Chuck Forester advised that things are going good and there are no issues.

**Vestry Liaison:** Rev. Ann advised for Bonnie Merritt that some oil candles have been purchased with donations received. Tony Lyall advised for fiscal affairs that the \$480,000 Underwood Estate funds were transferred to Great State Bank. In the future, \$400,000 of these funds will be invested in a Diocese Fund with \$80,000 to remain at Great State Bank. Tony Lyall is leading the budgeting process and they will meet on December 3rd. Drew advised that there are still a number of pledges that have not been turned in. The projected income for 2016 will drive the budget. Chuck Forester advised that the vestry nomination forms are out and some names have been received.

**New Business:** The vestry vacancy as a result of Rachel Minick joining the staff was discussed. Drew Mayberry made a motion that was seconded by Sandra Elledge to accept Glenn Smith to fill Rachel's remaining 1 year term. The motion passed. Expansion of the Parish House kitchen was discussed. Funds might be available thru a grant and loan from the Diocese. Drew Mayberry made a motion that was seconded by Tony Lyall to authorize an expenditure of up to \$3,000 for design work and plans. The motion passed. Rev. Ann and Sandra Elledge will talk with people who use the kitchen to determine our needs.

**Deacon's Report:** Rev. Deacon Susan advised that the Diocese Convention was good. The vote for the new Bishop will be in June and the installation will be in October with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry scheduled to attend.

**Rector's Report:** Rev. Ann advised that there was a very good feeling at the convention. Over 10,000 Stop Hunger Now meals were packed. Walk about meetings around the diocese will be scheduled to meet the Bishop candidates. Anyone can attend but the convention delegates are required to attend. Rev. Ann will be on vacation November 23th thru 29th. Rev. Ann asked for prayer request and a prayer was said.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer at 12:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Harris  
Clerk of the Vestry



**1836-2016**  
**180 Years of Ministry**

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**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

P. O. Box 95  
 Wilkesboro, NC 28697

**Location:**

200 W. Cowles Street

**Email Address:**

office@stpaulwilkesboro.org

**Office Phone:**

336-667-4231

**Pastoral Emergencies:**

757-561-8793

**Office Hours:**

Monday-Friday  
 9:00am to 5:00pm

**Website:**

www.stpaulwilkesboro.org



**St. Paul's Vestry**  
**2016**

Mark Cook  
 Naomi Faw  
 Chuck Forester, *Sr. Warden*  
 Cynthia Palazzolo

**2017**

Drew Mayberry, *Jr. Warden*  
 Maggie McCann  
 Bonnie Merritt  
 Glenn Smith

**2018**

Sandra Elledge  
 Tony Lyall  
 Tim Murphy  
 Sheree Sloop

Bill Harris, *Secretary*  
 Joe Richardson, *Treasurer*

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Opportunities**

**Wednesday Eucharist**

5:30pm Historic Chapel

**Sunday Services**

8:30am Historic Chapel  
 9:30am Sunday School  
 10:30am Main Sanctuary

*Please join us for worship*