



# The Epistle

Loving  
Joyous  
Inclusive

February 1, 2015

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the Name of Christ.

Though Christmas may seem like a distant memory now, allow me first to thank all those who made our celebration special. Thank you to the Decorators, Altar Guild, Acolytes, Ushers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Choirs for their tremendous effort in providing for worship leadership. Also, thank you to our Office Staff and Volunteers and Maintenance Crew for their often over-looked but valuable work. It was a true joy for me to celebrate my first Christmas here at St. Paul's.

As Epiphany turns to Lent, I encourage you to look through this edition of The Epistle to see the many opportunities available to make yours a Holy Lent. Some of your fellow parishioners have been involved in a project that I am quite excited about: We have produced a Lenten devotional booklet entitled *Create and Make in Me a New Heart* that includes meditations written by the clergy, people and friends of St. Paul's. (This will be available electronically, as well.) We will again offer a four-week Lenten series on Thursdays; this year's study will be on the liturgies of Holy Week. During Lent, the Sunday morning series will focus on Sin and Forgiveness. In addition to our regular Wednesday Noon Eucharist, beginning on Ash Wednesday there will be a 7:00am Eucharist in the Chantry each Wednesday.

Lent is a season of self-denial, prayer, and fasting, but it is also a gift to us. It is a time for each one of us to focus on our relationship with God and the Church. I encourage you to use this Lent to reflect on what it means for you to be a disciple of Christ, not just a church member, and use the opportunities provided here to strengthen your spiritual life.

With my prayers for a Holy Lent, I remain,

Your friend and Rector,

(The Rev'd) Robert A. Picken

## **St. Paul's Lenten Meditation Booklet: *Create and Make in Me a New Heart***

For Lent we have produced our own daily meditation booklet. The theme of the booklet is inspired by the collect of the day for Ash Wednesday. The people and clergy of the St. Paul's community have written the meditations. Make this part of your Lenten devotions. Limited printed copies will be made available, but you may receive the daily meditation by email each morning by signing up on our website. Look for details on signing up in the next week.



## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

February 17th from 5:30 to 6:30pm in the Parish Hall.

We will have a pancake feast, Mardi Gras decorations and music, and a lot of fun!

Signup sheets will be in the Parish Hall for volunteers to help us put the feast together and for everyone who will join us as a guest.

Everyone is welcome...bring a friend!



lot

## Thursday Evenings in Lent

Thursday evenings: March 5, 12, 19 and 26.

6pm -- Soup Supper, 6:45pm -- Program followed by Compline

Our Lenten study this year will offer an informal yet informative look at the rites of Holy Week -- the central focus of the Christian year. What role does Scripture play? Where did this all come from? Why do we do what we do on certain days? And, most importantly, how are these liturgies separate yet incomplete without the others? This four part series will cover: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Great Vigil of Easter.

Presented by the Reverend Robert Picken.

Please register in the Parish Activities Book in the Parish hall so that we can plan accordingly.



## 9AM Sunday Morning Adult Formation Sin, Forgiveness and Reconciliation

February 22<sup>nd</sup> – March 22<sup>nd</sup>

Every Sunday we confess our sins and ask for forgiveness. In the Baptismal Covenant, we say that we believe in the forgiveness of sins. We also promise to resist evil, and repent and return to God when we sin. Our Prayer Book contains a pastoral office – The Reconciliation of a Penitent.

What are we praying for? What are our sins and what are the sins that we accept responsibility for in our culture? Do we accept forgiveness and reconcile ourselves to God?

As we move through the Lenten season, let us better understand the meaning of sin, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Schedule: February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Setting the questions, March 1<sup>st</sup> – Guest speaker, Dorothy Lindsay, Good and Evil; March 8<sup>th</sup> – Guest Speaker, Jean Garofolo, Social Sin; March 15<sup>th</sup> – Reflection on Sin; March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Reflection on Forgiveness.

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned  
against you in thought,  
word and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone...**

## **RAIHN cometh to St. Paul's February 15-22. Please signeth up!**

We know it is school vacation week.....What better way to live out loving our neighbor than to bring your child/children with you while you do a shift?

To sign up: 1) Google: [www.paulsplace.ivolunteer.com](http://www.paulsplace.ivolunteer.com) 2) Follow directions and be sure to acknowledge your email shift confirmation OR call Carol Cunningham at [585-747-4526](tel:585-747-4526). Or see Carol in the Parish Hall after church service to sign up in person.

Training in policies, expectations and procedures is available but not necessary on Feb 10 at 6:30 pm at Christ Church Pittsford.

### **From my reading the Family Promise (Interfaith Hospitality Network) Fall newsletter .....**

*"Transforming Lives* ties into the everyday work of all 186 affiliates of Family Promise. It isn't something we think about in our day to day work. It's not what we promise families as they come to our doors. You won't find that phrase in a training manual. And we don't set it as a strategic goal in our five year plans, but this is what is happening in the Affiliates every day. Lives are transformed, and we are also transformed. It is the power of the Family Promise community." *Karen Olson, Family Promise President and Founder at the recent conference in Chicago, Oct 24-26, 2014.*

*Rev. Dr. Martin Marty, renowned religious scholar from the University of Chicago and speaker at the Family Promise conference* Dr. Marty examined how the Family Promise organization moves people from homelessness, helplessness and 'outsiderhood' to confidence, security and family. He compared Family Promise to a clearing in the woods for families we serve. That clearing serves as a safe area that allows light to enter and new beginnings to flourish. So Dr. Marty's final words were to "be definers, let the light fall, and cultivate."

At this same conference, Family Promise announced a new financial literacy curriculum specially tailored to the unique needs of the low income and homeless families who are in the interfaith hospitality programs as guests or graduates. It will provide families with a comprehensive approach to achieving financial sustainability. It is designed to be clear and accessible both to families with no previous experience managing finances as well as to facilitators who may be new to teaching financial concepts. This has long been identified as a need by the local Rochester RAIHN organization and they will be incorporating this into its services.

Nancy Frank, Paul's Place RAIHN Communications Chairman



### **Lent Madness at St. Paul's – It's Almost Here!**

Join St. Paul's in our second season of Lent Madness. Between now and Ash Wednesday, learn about the saints competing for this year's Golden Halo by going on the Lent Madness website ([www.LentMadness.org](http://www.LentMadness.org)) or by picking up a copy of the "Saintry Scorecard" booklet from the table in the Parish Hall, the tract racks, or the church office. Then pick up a hard copy entry form from the Parish Hall or download an electronic form from St. Paul's web site, fill in your picks and turn it in.

The winner will receive a gift certificate to Forward Movement, will identify the St. Paul's mission or outreach program to benefit from the donations made in conjunction with the competition (\$5 suggested but optional contribution), and will receive bragging rights as the 2015 St. Paul's Lent Madness champion.

Contact Tim Dewart ([tcdewa@yahoo.com](mailto:tcdewa@yahoo.com)) with any questions.

**Welcome New Members  
Through Baptism**

January 11, 2015

Clauda Christiana Sylvia Scott

Daughter of Claudius R. and Cassandra G. Scott

January 18, 2015

Emily Danielle Wright

Daughter of Daniel O. and Erin Goodwin Wright  
and sister of Anika Wright



Merciful God,  
we entrust to your never-failing care and love . .

Robert P. Gulick  
December 15, 2014

Christopher P. Hochheimer  
December 28, 2014

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord;  
And let light perpetual shine upon them.  
May their souls, and the souls of all the departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



## St. Paul's Students Help School 9 Students Celebrate Christmas

Every year, Adopt-a-Classroom at School 9 presents a holiday gift to each of the 300+ students who participate in its literacy tutoring program. This Christmas the gifts were extra-special because of the efforts of St. Paul's middle school and high school students. With their teacher, Andrew Welker, the students wrapped each gift with love and colorful holiday paper for their Rochester neighbors at School 9.

Located just four miles from St. Paul's, School 9 serves some of the most challenged families in the city. Through its 16-year association with the school, St. Paul's Adopt-a-Classroom has provided crucial literacy support for students in grades kindergarten through second with one-on-one volunteer tutoring and with gifts of books and materials through the school year. The Christmas gifts are part of that support. All students in the 14 classrooms served by the program



receive a literacy activity book, a small package of crayons and a new pencil immediately before the December 2014 holiday break.

These gifts at Christmas and the books each student receives prior to February and summer vacations greatly reinforce their developing reading skills and show our young neighbors that they are loved and valued members of our community. Adopt-a-Classroom and the students at School 9 thank the students of St. Paul's and Andrew and Amy Welker for making their Christmas bright with beautifully wrapped gifts!



## St. Paul's Day Care Center News

In November St. Paul's Day Care Center was awarded a grant from the Stuart Forbes Fund to support an on-site Special Education Masters Certified Behavior Consultant. The Center's Behavior Consultant coordinates on-going student assessments with classroom teachers and works with parents to access appropriate resources and support services for children who may benefit from additional cognitive, social-emotional, speech-language or academic support. Liz Cook, President, St. Paul's Day Care Center Board



### Prayer Requests

If you have a specific need for which you would like prayers, please fill out a blue prayer card found on the tables around the church and put it in the collection plate or in the blue prayer box in the Norton Chapel. These prayer requests are prayed for one month by the Morning Prayer group both during the week and at the Morning Prayer service on Thursday mornings at 8 am in the Norton Chapel.

All are welcome to join that service.

### AA Meetings @ St. Paul's

Tuesday – 6:00pm – The Women's Home Group  
Wednesday – 8:15pm – The Young & The Reckless  
Thursday – 8:15pm – The Academy Group  
Friday – 10:05pm – Heard It Through the Grapevine  
Saturday – 10:00pm – Last House on the Block

### Al-Anon Meetings @ St. Paul's

Wednesday – 7:00pm – Wednesday Nite Al-Anon Family Group (WNAFG)

