

January 2020

Annual Meeting #181

All members of St. Paul's Church are encouraged to attend the 181st Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday, January 26, following the 10:15AM Eucharist, in the Great Hall. There will be one service and a Pot Luck Luncheon. Please bring a favorite dish or get out those cook books and try something new.

The meeting will feature the election of Wardens, Vestry members, Convention

An event not to be missed!

On the eve of the Epiphany, January 5, St. Paul's Church will celebrate Twelfth Night with a Lessons and Carols Service. Director of Music and Liturgy, **Canon Joseph Kucharski**, will present an organ recital at 3:30PM. The Lessons and Carols Service will follow at 4PM featuring St. Paul's Choir. Be sure to invite your friends and bring your family to this special event.

Following the service there will be a festive reception and fellowship in the Great Hall. Members are requested to donate sweet or savory goodies for the event.

Parking is available in the Lincoln Center of the Arts across from the Church.

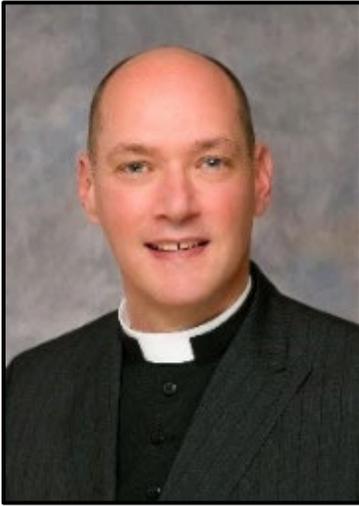
Delegates and the Nomination Committee for 2020. The names of those standing for election will be introduced to the Congregation in the Sunday Bulletins and email.

The 2019 Nominating Committee was chaired by **Jon Bauer**, Senior Warden and consisted of **Thomas Goode**, Junior Warden, **Brad Toebben**, Rector, **Mary Beth Haubrich**, **Pat Ruttum** and **Jennifer Williams**.



THANK YOU...all who made Advent and Christmas meaningful seasons at St. Paul's Church:

- ❖ Thrift Shop Boutique shoppers and donors
- ❖ The Social Committees' Cookie Walk and cookie bakers
- ❖ Fr. Brad & Deacon Shelia
- ❖ Canon Joseph Kucharski and the St. Paul's Choir
- ❖ Lay Readers
- ❖ Those who coordinated the Advent soup suppers
- ❖ Members who decorated the Sanctuary and Great Hall
- ❖ Acolytes, Ushers and Altar Guild
- ❖ Donors to the flower fund



From the Rector...

It has been a season of so many words. Words of anticipation. Words of good tidings. Words of fear. Words of frustration. We speak when we are filled with joy. We speak when we are filled with anger. We speak when we do not know what to say. Words define us as human beings. They create us and they can destroy us. In this season of Christmas, we are called to choose and hold our words with intention.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)

As we move through this season, our words will reflect the degree to which we have welcomed God's visitation to us. As the new Christ child grows and learns, we as the Body of Christ will invite him to speak to the world. This is the heart of our faith and, in our Anglican tradition, the belief that our faith is incarnational.

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God. (John 1:12)

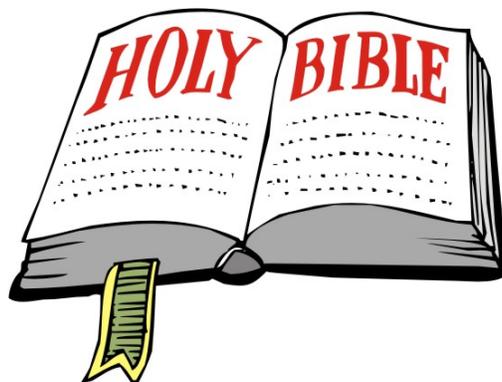
Many Christians hold this understanding as central to their spiritual practice. Foremost among them was St. Benedict who included in his rule the practice of "restraint of speech." A spiritual mentor of mine expresses that she attempts to "only say words that will improve the silence." I continue to realize that many things I have felt I need to express do not improve communication. Rather, they guarantee that "my" voice is heard. Sometimes I have found that a contribution to the cause. Usually, it is not.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. (John 1:14)

As the stillness of the manger gives way to the chatter of the world, may the voice of Christ be our first consideration. My prayer for us this new year is that we will have the courage to continue to experience the Word within us. I trust that together we will discover that does not require many words.

Arise, shine: for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you. (Isaiah 60:1)

Brad+



From the Senior Warden John E. Bauer



The December Vestry meeting was dominated by discussion of the 2020 proposed budget. While the revenue side remains fluid due to the fact that a number of members haven't returned their pledge cards, the amount pledged per member has increased. In addition, we will benefit from a 4% increase in the lease income from the daycare provider and an anticipated lease of the apartment above the Thrift Shop. When final refinements to the budget are completed, the proposed budget will be shared with the parish so members can review it before the Annual Meeting.

Volunteers are needed to serve as "Parking Lot Hosts" before the 10:15AM service. My initial experience in this capacity was enjoyable from the standpoint that it gave me the opportunity to greet St. Paul's members as they entered the lot. Although it wasn't necessary to turn away any congregants attending The Mix across the street, it was fairly evident that my presence served as a deterrent. The sign-up sheet for volunteering is located on the table in the hallway.

Many thanks to our new member **Chuck Werth** for volunteering to tackle our numerous communications challenges. He is conducting a communications audit with special focus on our website and social media. Besides updating the content, a fresh look and relevant announcements are nudging our media platforms toward becoming more effective outreach tools. Thanks, Chuck!

The Annual Meeting this year will be much more visual than in years past. It has become fairly obvious that a great deal of paper is wasted in preparation for the meeting. Consequently, we have decided to rely on projected graphics with printouts of the slide deck available later when requested. The agenda, Vestry candidate bios, and budget information will be distributed through other media before the meeting. All in all, I think the format and the content of the Annual Meeting will be much more engaging.

All members with a valid email address can expect to receive an invitation to respond to an online survey called the "Congregation Assessment Tool" (CAT) from Holy Cow Consulting. Despite the goofy sounding name, this is a very serious deep dive into congregational culture and operations. Obtaining participation from a large percentage of members is of critical importance to ensuring the validity of the results. Data from the CAT will be used by the Vestry in its annual planning retreat to identify key issues and strategize around how to address them in the upcoming year.

Financial data will be shared at the end of December. Suffice it to say that expenses are being controlled and contributions continue to reflect the generosity of our members. Thanks.

Finally, if you haven't turned in a pledge card, I implore you to do so before the end of the month. Having a clear picture of anticipated pledged income is necessary in order to present a realistic budget.

**Mark your calendars NOW,
so you won't miss the
Annual Meeting!**

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Rev. W. Bradley Toebben,

Rector

Rev. Sheila Scott, **Deacon**

John Bauer, **Sr. Warden**

Thomas Goode, **Jr. Warden**

Gerald Mainman, **Treasurer**

VESTRY

Lee Coppernoll

Eric Dawson

Florence Dukes

Michael Gauger

Sandra Halgerson

Lela Joscelyn

Paulette Kelly

Christine Krueger, **Clerk**

STAFF

Canon Joseph Kucharski

Music & Liturgy Director

Nevenka & Nikola Dedic

Housekeepers

Peter M. Johnson

Bill Jankowski

Buildings & Grounds Team

Lynne Fields

Administrative Assistant

Patrice Hansen

Accounting Assistant



Mary Beth Haubrich, **Editor**

Sarah Gramentine, **Copy Editor**



SUNDAYS

8AM, Holy Eucharist

10:15AM

Holy Eucharist with music

Nursery service available at 10AM

THURSDAYS

Evening Prayer, 5PM

MISSION STATEMENT

*We are a community of faith being
transformed through Christ to
embody the
healing presence of God's
love to one another, our city
and the world.*



Thrift Shop funds to benefit St. Paul's Annual Outreach Donations

After a busy year the, the Thrift Shop was able contribute \$20,000to support St. Paul's annual Outreach Donations and Ministries. Funds were distributed to the following organizations:

- ❖ Interchange \$4,500
- ❖ Sojourner Family Peace Center \$3,500
- ❖ Our Next Generation \$3,000
- ❖ The Gathering \$4,500
- ❖ Repairs of the Breach \$2,000
- ❖ Episcopal Relief and Development \$500
- ❖ Christ Church, Oforola \$1,000
- ❖ St. Paul's Outreach Endowment \$1,000