

THE SPIRE

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St. Paul's On The Hill Episcopal Church
40 Ganung Drive Ossining, New York 10562



*I am a stranger here on earth;
Do not hide your commandments from me.*
Psalm 119 v.19

In his book, Not in God's Name, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks stresses how important is for each of us to imagine ourselves in our neighbor's shoes. It is what allows us to desire the best for other people and also to open ourselves in humility to God. His point is that, when we can see ourselves as a stranger on earth, we are really open to God's will for us.

On Sunday the 23rd of October, Bishop Shin came to Trinity. It happened also to be the Sunday on which we read the story in Luke about the two men who come to the Temple to pray (Luke 18:9-14.) One is "virtuous" and proud while the other is a tax collector and humble. When they pray, the "virtuous" man thanks God for his way of life while the tax collector says simply, "God, be merciful to me a sinner." In the context of the story, Jesus makes it clear that the tax collector's prayer is the stranger's prayer and it is the effective one. This prayer reconnects the humble man with God. And that is the purpose of prayer, isn't it?

Now as the Bishop reflected on this Gospel, he asked us a single question: "What would it be like for the institutional (Episcopal) church to pray as the tax collector did?"

We in the Episcopal tradition have a long and illustrious history. We are the inheritors of the "via media," the reasonable middle way. We are the American Church which has historically been tied to the structure and power of the US government. Until the mid-twentieth century, we were among the wealthiest and most influential of denominations. We have been the Pharisees of the modern world and it has affected us. We have been proud. Certainly we did not see ourselves as strangers in this land.

But our current institutional struggles (declining membership, ageing though beautiful buildings, and a rusty old self-image from grander days) have brought us low. Today we can see ourselves in the shoes of the tax collector...in the shoes of the stranger, and that affects us too. But it is this very sense of dislocation which can lead our church communities to a deeper connection to God's will. If we are humble and acknowledge that we are among the strangers in this world and then turn to God for guidance, Luke's Gospel tells us that we will be exalted.

Trinity and St. Paul's have been working together for more than three years because frankly neither place felt they could responsibly go it alone. That joining has been our tax collector's prayer. It has been an act of humility and faith and obedience to God's lead and it is fitting that we should follow this beginning with intentional prayers for God's help.

So, today (or tonight) as you pray, remember the tax collector. Hold up our little communities to God for God's blessing and guidance. Because we know we are strangers here in this land and we need God's insight and guidance.

Faithfully, Cooper+



FELLOWSHIP *of Believers*

*God's desire for us
is to preserve and take care of
all that we have been entrusted.
(Matthew 25:14-33)*

Participation

Show up and do Something!!!!!!

2016 Stewardship process draws to a close!!!! Have you completed a pledge card?

Commitment Sunday will take place on ***Sunday November 13*** shortly before Thanksgiving. During this service we will thank God for all that we have been given and pledge to share our gifts with others.

One of our goals this year is to have a few members testify on how an active Christian faith has enriched and supported one's life. If you are interested in participating in this part of the Commitment Sunday Service please contact Mo. Cooper by Nov. 10.

A bagel Coffee hour will follow the service.

Please make every effort to attend November 13 as we join together to commit our resources, expertise and energy to God's work.

Any questions and or comments regarding this year's stewardship campaign can be directed to Mo. Cooper, Jo McGrath or Sue Monroe.

Blessings,
Jo McGrath

Looking Back

by John B. Houghtalin

On the shelves of St. Paul's archival library is a dusty yet well documented book detailing the title history of the land on which our church currently stands. *St. Paul's Hill, 1680-1969*, prepared by Mrs. Harry Sager, is an exhaustive examination of the hill's early history that challenges historical narrative previously advanced in St. Paul's on the Hill literature.

In pamphlets relating to St. Paul's Pinkster celebrations in the early 1960's, as well as the 125th Anniversary pamphlet of 1958, there is a discussion about Peter Donald assuming ownership of the property in the early 1800's then moving the former Customs House brick by brick from New York City up the river and to the hill in the 1820's.

Mrs. Sager offers a more exacting version:

Mr. Peter Donald, a linen merchant born in Dunfermline, Scotland, who had moved to this country and settled in New York City, purchased the property – 108 acres, 2 roods and 27 perches – on February 26, 1873, and maintained it as a summer home called "Torbank." The firm of Peter Donald and Company stood for many years among the leading importers.

Mr. Donald was married on May 7, 1862 to Miss Anna Edgar Donald. They had two daughters, Margaret McGregor Donald, born March, 1876 and Anna Edgar Donald, born December 10, 1897.

Miss Margaret Donald was married April 19, 1900, to Dr. James Bishop of New York City. She died in 1938, leaving no children.

Mrs. Donald died at Torbank following a long illness on October 19, 1905.

On March 4, 1911, Peter Donald left the Torbank property to his two daughters, and on April 14, 1917, Mrs. Bishop transferred her share to her sister, Anna Edgar. Peter Donald died at Torbank on April 9, 1915.

Miss Anna Donald served as a Red Cross worker in both France and Germany during WWI. She was an active sportswoman and traveled extensively, maintaining properties in Scotland and Nantucket. Before ill health curtailed her activities she also rode a great deal.

Anna Donald died on April 19, 1950, at Torbank. Among other bequests she left the Torbank property, consisting at that time of 94,436 acres plus buildings with an assessed value of \$126,900.00 to the Ossining Hospital Association.

The Ossining Hospital Association in turn, sold the property to real estate developers – the Bogdanoffs – who developed the property.

LOOKING BACK CONTINUED

Additionally, Mrs. Sager tells us, in the 1820's, the property was deeded to Caleb Bacon, a large landowner instrumental in promoting the Methodist religion in the Sing Sing community but who in 1833 provided the meeting space for the earliest Episcopal communicants of St. Paul's? In 1853, Dr. Benjamin Brandreth purchased the property from Caleb Smith and Mrs. Sager infers it was during this time that the estate house was erected. The property was to change hands four more times before it became the Donald Estate in 1873.

Another point of interest is that the 19th Century deeds consistently refer to the survey work of George Cartwright, one the founders and first 2 Wardens of St. Paul's, Sing Sing as well as the owner of the 1642 King James Bible in our possession.

A Special Thanks To Graham Gulian and the Harvest Gardeners!



This was the last of the vegetables from the garden which went to the Ossining Children's Center on October 12, 2016. As you can see from the falling leaves, it was time to put the garden to bed.





CHRISTMAS IS COMING - A HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, November 12, 10 AM to 4 PM

-
LANTERN GIFT SHOP: Holiday Gifts, Handcrafts & Decorations
-SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCHEON: 11:30 AM to 2 PM

- Gift Basket Raffle
- Bake Sale
- Order Fresh Christmas Wreaths
- Attic Treasures

Shop: [914 941-4434](tel:9149414434); Church Office: [914 941-6627](tel:9149416627)

**Give to
your local food bank**



The Lantern Gift Shop

The count down is on...."**Christmas Is Coming**", the all parish fundraiser is almost here. We are getting ready - are you? November 12th is the date, 10-4 is the time.

The Lantern Gift Shop will be open the entire time and will be "dressed for Christmas" with many beautiful items for gift giving. Sometimes people ask, "Why do you have this sale so early?" The main reason is to give the shop a longer Christmas selling season. The other reason is to give the Lantern Shop committee a chance to enjoy their family celebrations. We work very hard year round, including the summer, to prepare for each of our special event sales. Besides being a major fundraiser for the church, the shop is really a business that demands constant attention and much time is devoted to it by all our volunteers. (One of our newer committee members said "I had no idea what was involved in running the shop"!) Our "reward" is to have family time for Thanksgiving and Christmas before we dive back in again in early January.

Lunch will be served from 11:30 to 2 and the cost will remain at \$8.00. This is a good bargain for a bowl of delicious homemade soup from many choices, a sandwich (four choices with pickles and chips, of course), a brownie and a beverage. It is all served to you in a festive atmosphere by our friendly waitresses and waiters!

Also in the hall will be our famous **Holiday Bake Sale**. Plan to make something for this table and plan to come and buy too! Please bring your donations to us early on the 12th - we will be there at 9. We love it when you price your own goodies too. Cookies, cakes, pies, cupcakes, muffins, breads, quiches, candies, jams and jellies, homemade pickles....anything you make that you think would sell, we welcome.

When you enter by the kitchen, our **Five Fabulous Gift Baskets** will be on display and tickets will be sold. Ticket price is \$2 a ticket or 6/\$10. Remember, we are asking each parishioner to sell at least two books of tickets and are aiming to start the day with \$600 in advance sales. Karen will give you more tickets if you need them and you can turn ticket stubs and money into her or any of the shop ladies. Checks should be made out to St. Paul's.

Beth will be found in the **Attic Treasure** room down the hall from 10-4. Soon a pile of random boxes will be emptied and the contents on display. Good buys galore on nearly new and gently used items can be found. This room is always fun to visit.

Darryl is running **the annual wreath sale** once more. Plans are to have order forms available for ordering fresh Christmas wreaths for early December pick up. You can choose from various size plain or decorated wreaths. The shop ladies, as always, will do the decorating.

So, there is much to do in these final days and we hope by now, you have found a way that you will be participating. See you in the 12th!

The Lantern Shop Committee



Christmas Wreath Sale!

Order your Fresh, Double Faced Balsam Wreaths to decorate your home and business. Ask your friends, colleagues, and family too.

Wreaths have an outer diameter of 22, 26, 30, or 36, inches and can be ordered Plain or Decorated. Decorated wreaths come with a combination of pine cones, berries, and hand-made red bow (thanks to our Lantern Shop Ladies).

Order forms will be available in the church Narthex, from the church office, and online from Darryl Moy (Darryl.Moy@gmail.com). Order forms will also be available at our **Christmas is Coming Celebration on Saturday, November 12, 2016**. Wreath pickup will be December 2-4. Let's make this a joyous fundraiser!



St. Paul's on the Hill Student concert Friday December 9th from 3 until 5 pm

The Fall Youth Music Program will end on December 9, 2016 with performances by the students in Drumming, Guitar, and Singing. The program began on October 7, 2016 and enrollment soared to 35 after two sessions. We are pleased with the increase in enrollment and we are working very hard to meet their individual needs as they prepare to perform. The students range in age from 3 to 14. Our 15, 16, and 17 year olds are performing in plays, leading drum lines, and attending their freshman year in college. We have one Counselor who helps with outdoor play and supervision. We could still use more volunteers. Just one afternoon on Monday or Friday from 2:45- 5:15 would be greatly appreciated.

Beginning December 4, we will have a Silent Auction to continue the work of the Summer Music Camp. Items are being solicited from any members and friends who have any items they would like to donate to the cause. Please see Carolyn Black, Beverly Vaillancourt, or Melanie Rowe to donate an item.

Our Youth Music Programs continue to grow thanks to your help: Jo McGrath, Melanie Rowe, Beverly Vaillancourt, Lisa Rosenbloom, Beth Pollack, Elaine Blair, Mo. Cooper Conway, George Holsten (who fixes all things drum), Tina Farrell, and teachers, Art Hightower, Noah Duncan, and Carolyn Black.

Just a Little Difference

Ah—a resting place,
where we come to understand
it is not required of us
to wrestle constantly and passionately
with our God—
nor pursue relentlessly
all God's decrees as we understand them,
but only that we listen and wonder
and hope and pray,
that we might, perhaps,
make just a little difference,
one quiet grey day.

Edwina Gateley

“Lighthouses don’t go running all over an island looking for
boats to save; they just stand there shining.”

[Anne Lamott](#)

Submitted by Julie Gross

St. Paul's new website is still a work in progress, but it is up and running. Please visit www.stpaulsonthehill.org. St. Paul's will rise higher on search lists if more people visit the site. This, in turn, will help more people find our church.

Check through the site, and think of it as a treasure hunt. Can you find the Mustard Seed Garden, the previous issue of the Spire, the pictures from the Blessing of the Animals, information on what you need to do if you wish to arrange a wedding outside the church building, or a list of other denominations with which the Episcopal Church is in full communion? If you find any mistakes in the text or wish to suggest additions, please email Lisa Rosenbloom at lpassavant@gmail.com.

There will be changes coming to the site and up-to-date events will be added as they occur. Keep checking in.

And don't forget to "Like" St. Paul's on-the-Hill Episcopal Church in Ossining, NY on Facebook - that helps us get the word out about our great little church, too.

PARISH REMEMBRANCES

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/01 Craig Peter Rowe
11/05 Mark E. DiLoreto
11/08 Kirsten Bowen
11/10 Kevin Noye
Daniel Visconti
11/16 Aileen Hunt
11/19 Jim Bowen
Jessica Von Euen
11/20 Stephen Monroe
11/21 Dan Platt
11/22 Albert Cucurullo
11/25 Dawn Mahlau
11/26 Francesca Houghtaling
11/28 Doug McGrath

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/03 Francesca & John Houghtaling
11/08 Barbara & Gene Mahlau

NOVEMBER BAPTISMS

11/25 Christina Brocchi

NOVEMBER DEATHS

11/09 John James Farrell
11/16 Henry Moser
11/19 Barbara Kip
11/25 Beatrice Losee
11/26 Edward (Ted) Brewster