

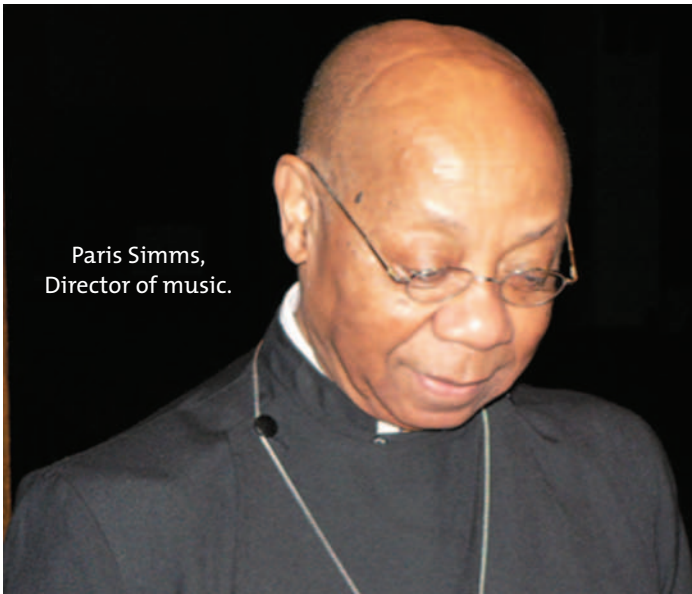


ST PAUL'S 
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Messenger

113 ENGLE STREET, ENGLEWOOD, NJ. 07631

NOVEMBER | DECEMBER 2006



Paris Simms,
Director of music.

Cantate Domino!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

– Psalm 98:1a –

*The St. Paul's
Music Tradition*

– By: Paris Simms

Dear Friends,

To celebrate and commemorate the 100th Anniversary of this parish, *St. Paul's Church, Englewood, New Jersey 1865-1965...and onward* was published. It is an attractive hardcover edition which many still own. If you do, it would be a good idea to revisit this book to trace the history of St. Paul's, its mission and ministry. It provides fascinating information about 10 of our rectors from The Rev. Ozi Whitaker (1865-1867) to The Rev. David Gillespie, (1962-1978). It tells of the growth and development of our extraordinarily handsome buildings and their glorious stained glass windows. What is also most obvious in this book is the important role that music has always played in the ministry of this parish.

There have been many gifted and dedicated Music Directors here at St. Paul's Church over the years. Each has brought his unique talent and personality to the ministry. James Corneill (1930-1942) was particularly responsible for the development of a fine choir of men and boys; as was Herbert Henderson (1944-1947). It is interesting to note that Mr. Henderson's cremated remains are interred beneath the Choir area near the organ console. John Harms, for whom the Harms Arts Center is named, was the director of the St. Paul's choir from 1947-1957. We are fortunate to have two of the most recent directors living relatively close

by. They were willing to contribute to this edition of *The Messenger*. Their reflections are printed inside.

As the current music director I feel fortunate to have followed these two church musicians. It has been my goal to not only continue this strong tradition of fine music, but to build on it. Education is at the center of this ministry. The Organ Scholar Program has served to enrich our liturgies and more importantly, has become an important part of "growing" church musicians for the future. Noah Wynne-Morton is our fifth scholar (his profile is found inside). In addition we now also have a student chorister program that features outstanding high school students. Here students gain skill and love of high quality music that will remain a part of their lives for years to come.

We here at St. Paul's Church are heirs to an amazing legacy of music. The wonderful organ, choir and dedicated music program are the result of over 140 years of commitment to the ministry of music. We are called to honor and support this special tradition. **It is a big part of what makes us special. Indeed, it is all done here—in God's Name!**

Yours in faith, Paris Simms



Dear Companions,

As you see we have a rather provocative theme for this edition of *The Messenger*. This is intentional. We mean to provoke you. We want to provoke thought and reflection. We also want to move your heart. We want you to act in love and make a commitment to God and to this church.

What a special place this parish is. This month I will let the text and images do the talking! For the Love of God—**participate and choose life!**

Yours in faith,

What in God's Name is going on around here?

For the love of God—Please join us during this Holy Season and stay for all the seasons of your life!



Caring Women of the Parish—Sandra Bonnick, Deb Williams, Joanne O'Neill, Jill McNish, and Pam Abner



Caring men of the Parish—Ormand Harrison, Jonathan Stevens, and Jeff Johnson

Caring for others — Calendar of Events for Outreach Ministry

1 NOVEMBER 5th–18th

Inter Religious Faith Shelter (IRF)

(located at St. Cecilia's Church, Englewood)

Again we will work with our friends of Kol HaNeshamah sharing two weeks of hospitality with families residing at the IRF Shelter. Service includes preparing dinner, making bag lunches, staying overnight, and serving breakfast. On the last Saturday (11.18.06) a clean-up crew prepares the shelter for the next group. Those who have worked here have found it to be a deeply moving and spiritual experience. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the breezeway. Minister to the homeless—for the love of God!

2 NOVEMBER 12th

United Thank Offering Sunday

It's time to fill our *Blue Boxes* or *Blue Envelopes* with offerings of thanksgiving for God's love and daily blessings. Gifts, in the form of grants, are given to support work at home and abroad as part of the outreach of the Episcopal Church. 100% of the collected offering is given away. May God bless those who will benefit from these gifts and those who make offerings. Cash (no coins please) or checks payable to

UTO Diocese of Newark will be received. Questions may be directed to Dottie Burns or Peg Slaven. **Now is the time** to take part in the UTO!

3 DURING DECEMBER

Angel Tree Project

In December *The Service Guild* will once again sponsor an *Angel Tree* for the benefit of *North Porch Women's and Infant Centers*. Pick an angel from the tree and grant her request. Each angel will request articles for needy mothers and their infants (up to age 3). This program, sponsored by the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese, began in 1984. Each donation will make a real difference in the lives of women and children. For information contact: Dorothy Burns, Ruth Herrick, Betty McCloone, Kathleen Poland or Ruth Saitch.

4 DURING DECEMBER

In Jesus Name

Toys, books, games, mittens, hats, gloves, scarves are needed for the *In Jesus Name Shelter* in Hoboken. Cash donations are also needed. Make Christmas a happier time for every child. For details, see Nat and Bernice Nelson.



A lesson read during an informal liturgy in Advent. O come, O come, Emmanuel...



Jim Warnke, celebrates the Eucharist.

Looking after ourselves —

Calendar of events for: Education, Retreats, & Parish Life!

1 NOVEMBER 5th, 12th, & 19th, 2006. SUNDAY MORNINGS FROM 9:15-10:20 A.M.

The Adult Forum—*Those Trendy Episcopalians!*

Diocesan leaders will join us to offer a look at trends, issues, and statistics within the Diocese of Newark and the Episcopal Church. We will also examine trends in Englewood and in the region to better discern how God may lead us to respond. Finally we will reflect on trends within our Parish and discuss how they may affect our future. Ken Near will facilitate our open discussion.

2 DECEMBER 1st, 2nd, & 3rd, 2006.

Advent Retreat—*And They Shall Call Him Emmanuel*

Led by The Rev. James Warnke, Priest Associate.

Prepare yourself for a holy Christmas by taking time apart during Advent for quiet, rest, prayer, conversation, and listening. Even if you are a “first timer” you will find the experience comfortable and enriching. For information and to sign up, please call 201.568.3276 or Jim at 201.692.1858. A \$25 non-refundable deposit is required. Make your check payable to St. Paul’s Church with “Advent Retreat” in the memo portion. Be kind to yourself and join us this Advent—For the love of God!

3 DECEMBER 3rd—SUNDAY

Christmas Gift Sale

You may find just the right small gift at this event held in the vestibule outside the Chapel after the 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. Sponsored by the Service Guild—all proceeds go to St. Paul’s.

4 DECEMBER 3rd—SUNDAY

Advent Wreath-making Project

Children of all ages (yes grown-ups too) enjoy this St. Paul’s tradition. Greens and decorating items are provided. All that is needed is YOU and your creativity! Gather in the Parish Hall from 8:45–10:20 a.m. An expert or two is around to help those who have never done this. Don’t be shy—join us!

5 DECEMBER 10th—SUNDAY

The 141st Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting begins with a simple Eucharist in the Church at 9:30 a.m. (there is no 8:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. liturgy). Then we move to the Parish Hall to hear the report from the Rector, reports concerning our program life, and reports from the Treasurer and the Endowment Fund. Votes are received for: the budget for 2007, for new members of the Vestry, and our representative to Diocesan Convention. For the love of God—Come learn about your Parish and participate in its life!

6 DECEMBER 17th—SUNDAY, 9:15-10:20 a.m.

The Adult Forum—*Reflections on a ministry to those in need!*

Janet McMonagle has spent time working amongst the poor in Appalachia. This is a ministry that we have supported and many of our youth have been sponsored. During Advent Janet will remind us of God’s care for the poor and our faith community’s response. For the love of God—hear this story and open your heart!

Noah Wynne-Morton,
Scholar-in-Residence.



People at St. Paul's — for the Love of God!

St. Paul's welcomes our new Organ Scholar

For the past eight years the music department at St. Paul's Church has sponsored an organ-scholar in residence program. Under the guidance of our music director, Paris Simms, we have brought extraordinary young musicians from the finest conservatories in the country into our midst to expose and train them in the art of music making in a parish church. This has been an enormously successful program. To date we have sponsored four incredibly talented young musicians. Each of them learned a great deal here. Each of them enhanced our lives too and we are grateful for their gifts to us. Now we introduce our most recent scholar in residence, Noah Wynne-Morton, and he comes to us from Winnetka, Illinois.

Noah started playing the organ when he was ten years-old. A few years prior he had started piano with Elizabeth Agard, Delores Frederickson and later with Dr. Louis Playford. Noah first started playing the organ as a hobby at his local Episcopal Church in Winnetka. He later decided to finish his High School education at the Chicago Academy for the Arts. He began his organ studies under Kirstin Synnestvedt, Douglas Cleveland, and Richard Hoskins. Noah made his organ "debut" in a joint recital, "Pipes Spectacular" for the AGO (American Guild of Organists) in 2000 when he was 13 years of age. Through the years Noah has participated in several events for local chapters of the AGO. His first church job was for an Episcopal church in Des Plaines, Illinois where he was the Organist/Choirmaster. Noah currently is a sophomore at the Juilliard School in New York City where he is studying with Paul Jacob pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Organ performance. We are delighted to have Noah join our St. Paul's family.

PARISH PROFILE:

DAVID EVERSLEY

BY PEG SLAVEN

For those of us who were fortunate enough to have seen the St. Paul's choir presentation, *The Other Side*, last spring, the final number in Act I was one few will forget. The song was "Old Man River" from the musical *Showboat*. The vocalist was David Eversley. David has sung in the choir since coming to St. Paul's in the sixties, and we're

used to seeing him in his choir robe on Sunday mornings; but he was sans choir robe and sporting a straw hat when he filled the church that Saturday evening in early June with the sad, stoic lament of a poor Black Mississippi boat-loader. When the song ended, tears as well as cheers greeted it.

David's parents came to this country from Barbados. They settled in Harlem, and the family worshipped at St. Ambrose, where David served—from the age of five until he went into the army—as an acolyte and where he met his wife, Myrtle. Music was very much a part of his early life. One uncle played the bass fiddle and another, an

David Eversley



organist, taught him to play the piano. He sang in the All City High School Chorus and with the Schubert Music Society and attended the Manhattan College of Music for two years as a voice major. However, his father wanted him to seek a more dependable career than that of a musician and sent him to Cooper Union for a degree in engineering.

The army claimed him from 1958 to 1960; he trained at Fort Hood, Texas—along with another soldier, Elvis Presley!—then spent eighteen months in Germany. In 1960 he married Myrtle Clarke, a teacher. They came to Englewood, where they raised their children: a daughter, Kathleen, a dental assistant who lives in Roselle, NJ, and a son, Anthony, who lives in Bethlehem, PA, and is an engineer like his dad. Myrtle and David have two grandsons—Bryce, seven years, and Lamar, five years.

A list of the places where David has performed could form a sight-seeing trip of Manhattan: Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, the National Geographic Society, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Museum of Natural History.

Until he retired, he worked for the United States Department of Defense at Fort Monmouth in Redbank, NJ, traveling the US and Europe in his position as an industrial engineer. Now, you may question his definition of retirement, because David continues to be a busy man. Monday and Thursday nights he rehearses—he sings not only with St. Paul's choir, but also with the New York Collegiate Choral Society and in the Inspirational and Gospel Choirs at Riverside Church in Manhattan. He enjoys deep-sea fishing off the coast of New Jersey and spends time with his grandsons—more time, he believes, than he was able to spend with his children.

David has been a parishioner and member of the choir at St. Paul's since moving to Englewood, back when David Gillespie was rector and John Bullough played the organ and directed the choir. Paris Sims, our present organist and choir director, describes David's relationship with the other choir members as a warm, close-knit one and speaks of the respect that they have for him. "David is a most loving, kind, and gentle man," Paris says. Indeed.

Leadership Demands Courage

When Challenges Seem Insurmountable

By: COLLIN M. WOLFE, WARDEN, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH VESTRY

If the role of the vestry at St. Paul's were to be examined in its historic context, this review would likely reveal instances when the fine men and women who comprised this group, were faced with the burden of decisions. These decisions might not only have been pivotal—given the circumstances at hand; but which, too, might have been incumbent, relative to the overall accountability that this body has to the parish. Such an instance has come again: this current vestry must act with courage, moral conviction, and great ethical resolve. Its failure to do so, might subject it to the harshest criticism by history, let alone by our progenitors, of whom we must care dearly.

The issue that currently confronts the vestry, rests with the matter of preserving the rich heritage that is inextricably linked to the history of St. Paul's, while simultaneously re-engineering an appropriate "cultural climate" that lends itself to the newly defined concept of integration. The accomplishment of this feat rests not in the vestry's ability to propagate the doctrine egalitarianism, but more so in its ability to mobilize capable men and women of the parish; and all those who may be in the accomplishment of a major capital development campaign. This will result in a new way of thinking about factors such as: accessibility to those of our current and future parishioners who are limited in their mobility, the preservation of the artifacts that are embedded in the physical domain of St. Paul's; the embellishment of the current structure with modern equipment and resources; and most importantly, a shift in the paradigm relative to the sacred space of worship.

It is this writer's most humble opinion that of the four challenges herein listed, the last to be mentioned is the most difficult to be

achieved. Therein lies the essence of most people's commitment to St. Paul's. One might therefore easily reach consensus with a majority on the other three items, but the alteration of the space of worship is seen by many as a forbidden act.

What then might a vestry do in times like these? What should be its resolve? How should it proceed in ensuring sufficient dialogue with everyone in the parish, so as to facilitate a sense of purpose and belonging with these proposed initiatives? How far is too far, and, how much is too much? How can the vision and mission for the future blend in harmony with the values and traditions of the past? How will one ensure that the rituals, routines and mores of the present day evolve to meet the organizational demands that the parish faces tomorrow?

The answer lies with courage. The vestry must remain prayerful, humble, and courageous. It cannot be perceived as being the vanguard of a revolution. Rather, it must be seen as an embodiment of men and women whose faith in God remains grounded in patience, temperance and gravity of thought. In addition to this, the vestry must engage the parish in meaningful dialogues aimed at building a sense of ownership and a spirit of investment in St. Paul's future. Nonetheless, it is imperative that the vestry remains accountable to the people and it must be clear in its purpose. More than all, this current vestry must be prepared to make difficult decisions in the execution of its mandate. Consequently, it must lead in a time of change when the hearts of men and women may be overcome by feelings of despair. When the possibilities of tomorrow, remain hidden behind the horizon of today.



Collin Wolfe, Warden

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The choir still rehearses on most Thursday nights.



Sue Greenberg is a section leader in our choir.

More on Music — For the Love of God

In preparation for the cover article Paris Simms contacted two of his predecessors to ask for their reflections on our music ministry program.

From: Gerald Weale

My time at St. Paul's Englewood

I was organist and choirmaster of St. Paul's from 1967 to late 1973. During that period I also taught at Fairleigh Dickinson and at Teacher's College, Columbia. In addition, I was in charge of choral music for part of that time at Manhattanville College in Purchase, New York.

My involvement at St. Paul's was fascinating, because there seemed to be endless possibilities for music in this wonderful parish. Highlights included several staged performances of Benjamin Britten's biblical opera "Noye's Fludde," based on the Genesis story of the flood. We also did a number of musical services, including the St. John Passion of Bach, a Rossini Stabat Mater and an All Britten

morning prayer, featuring "Rejoice in the Lamb." The choir was healthy and wonderfully compliant, so we sang all manner of great choral literature in the service. It was all—Great fun!

During those years, we replaced parts of the organ, which were failing. I was the organist who got the church on the path of the Austin Organ, which it now enjoys. These were heady days—full of promise and accomplishment.

After leaving St. Paul's I accepted a position at Boston University, where I finished my doctorate. I later joined the faculty and at this point I have just retired after thirty years as a Professor at the Boston University School of Music. I still keep my hand in as a practicing musician, conducting the 200 hundred singers of the Newburyport Choral Society in Massachusetts. This is professional ensemble and we have enjoyed several European tours. In addition, I am organist and choirmaster of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Hanover, New Hampshire, on the campus of Dartmouth College.

We have recently installed a new organ there in the course of building a new parish hall.

I am grateful to be remembered in this way, especially to Mr. Simms, who is a source of knowledge about what's going on in Englewood these days. Best wishes to all.

From: John Bullough

I succeeded Gerald Weale as Organist and Director of Music at St. Paul's in 1973 and retired in 1994. My principal occupation was as a professor of music at Fairleigh Dickinson University. From Mr. Weale and earlier organists, including John Harms, I inherited a strong tradition of great church music sung by an outstanding choir. I am happy that many of my singers are still in Paris Simms' fine choir.

When I arrived at St. Paul's, the organ was in desperate condition, having been severely damaged by a heavy snowfall and a leaky roof. A very generous bequest made it possible to complete the entire work at one time, so the organ became essentially the same thrilling instrument we enjoy today, although the mechanism has recently been very much improved.

I feel greatly privileged to have been able to combine teaching at the university and directing a fine choir in a beautiful church for the best years of my career. I will always be grateful to the clergy and people of St. Paul's for the opportunity to have been of service.

A Community celebrates for the Love of God!

1 ALL SOULS' DAY

Requiem

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd AT 7:30 p.m.

Lux Aeterna (Light Eternal)

Setting by: Morten Lauridsen

On All Souls' Day (November 2) a "Requiem Eucharist" is offered in thanksgiving for the lives of loved ones who have died each year. It is deeply moving to hear the names being called out during this liturgy. This year we are pleased to announce that the Bishop of Newark, John Palmer Croneberger, will be our preacher—his last time with us before his retirement. For the love of God—Please come and remember!

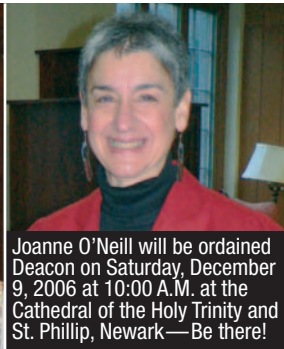
2 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd AT 7:30 p.m.

Thanksgiving Community Service

This year St. Paul's is proud to host the annual community Thanksgiving Service that brings together members of the rich variety of faith communities here in Englewood. Vince Curatola (Johnny Sack on the hit TV Show—The Sopranos) has agreed to read one of the lessons (subject to his filming schedule). He is working with the Rector to make this a memorable evening! For the love of God—please join us!



Advent Chasuble



Joanne O'Neill will be ordained Deacon on Saturday, December 9, 2006 at 10:00 A.M. at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity and St. Phillip, Newark—Be there!

3 Advent Vestments and an Ordination!

The Church in her wisdom sets aside the four Sundays before Christmas (Advent) as a time to savor the subtlety of life rather than garish commercialism. This year we have something special—a beautiful deep indigo (the color for Advent) chasuble given by Joanne O'Neill in memory of the women in her life: her mother, Rita Carbone, her Grandmother, Rose Ricciardi, and her Mother-in-law, Agnes (Nancy) O'Neill. The chasuble will receive its blessing on the day of its first use, Advent I, Sunday, December 3rd at 8:00 a.m. Joanne has a great deal to savor this Advent. We are proud to announce that she will be ordained Deacon at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 9th at the Cathedral Church of Trinity and St. Phillip, Newark. She invites all of you to her ordination! We rejoice with her and for her! Please be there!

4 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th 10:30 a.m.

Lessons and Carols

The sacred tradition of A Service of Lessons and Carols allows us to hear the story of salvation history interspersed with reflections offered in music. Hymns and Carols are offered for congregational participation but a special feature of this liturgy is the beautiful offering of choral anthems and carols performed by the St. Paul's Choir with soloists. For the love of God—Come, hear, pray, participate, and luxuriate in the presence of the Lord!



Ken & Karen Near invite you to join them at the Rectory for an "Open House." Advent III—Sunday, December 17, 2006 from 5:00pm to 7:30pm.

5 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th FROM 5:00p.m. 7:30 a.m.

Open House at the Rectory

Ken and Karen Near once again invite you to join them at the Rectory (130 Winthrop Place) for a time of seasonal cheer! This will be a festive occasion and there will be plenty of treats in store for everyone and you are encouraged to be there!



Altar Guild members Peg Slaven and Meta Barrow adorn the Altar with poinsettias for Christmas

6 Christmas Flowers

At Christmas it has been the custom at St. Paul's Church for parishioners to contribute poinsettia plants in the name of a friend or family member who has died. A sign-up sheet will be available to record your loved one's name. A contribution of \$25 is requested; the check is payable to St. Paul's Church—in the memo line mark it "Poinsettia." Please sign up by December 18th.

The plants serve two purposes: first they adorn the altar during our Christmas liturgy; then they are taken by the Lay Pastoral Visitors to members of our church who are unable to attend in person. For the love of God—Please, take part in this tradition!

7 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th

Christmas Eve: The Feast of the Nativity of the Lord

Nothing is more beautiful than Christmas Eve at St. Paul's Church. The warmth and joy present in this place is truly remarkable. Three liturgies are highlighted for you—For the love of God—join us at Christmas and stay for all the seasons of your life!

1 5:00 p.m. CHRISTMAS EVE, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th

Jazz Eucharist with children's Christmas Pageant

Once again the 3D Jazz Ensemble will be with us to add a festive air. This year Jill McNish, our priest associate in charge of education ministry, is organizing a Children's Christmas pageant.

2 11:00 p.m. CHRISTMAS EVE, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th

Festival Candle-Light Eucharist

Join us as candle light bathes the interior of the church while the choir and congregation sings Carols and celebrates the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. This Eucharist is sublime. Before the liturgy a Concert of Carols, with soloists and harpist begins at 10 p.m.

3 10:00 a.m. CHRISTMAS DAY, MONDAY, DECEMBER 25th

Simple Eucharist with Carols

Each year a small group of parishioners gather in the Chapel on Christmas morning to sing and celebrate. There is usually a group of bright-eyed children there with new toys.

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