

The Messenger

*Stephen Rozzelle, Pastoral Associate
from the Priest-in-Charge*

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The 144th Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Parish Hall on December 13, 2009. Some sixty parishioners took part in the event—they came directly from the combined Sunday morning services in the main Church at 9:30 am.

Outgoing Co-Warden Dr. Collin Wolfe was succeeded by prominent Vestry Member Beverly Baker. Current Co-Warden Issie Cherevko continues in that capacity for a second term of three years.

My Friends,

A new member of our Parish Staff is the Reverend Stephen M. Rozzelle. He prefers to be called "Stephen" and is retired as of three years ago—early retirement that, according to him, he has been unable to make work. He is just not the retiring sort. His energy is apparently boundless, and his good cheer and unflappability unchallengeable. His labors here are a gift to the parish, as he will be working without compensation.

Stephen's passion is people, and particularly those who are having a rough time of it. For example, he founded, a number of years ago, an organization called "Curbing Hunger" that was installed in a number of counties in New Jersey. The idea was that householders and families would put canned and dry goods in special orange bags, and place the bags on the curb on designated days. Then local sanitation crews (and in one locale, UPS) would pick up the bags and deliver them to the local food bank. Enormous amounts of food were collected and many mouths were fed.

It is this sort of creativity and compassion that has commended Stephen and his ministry to many, inside and outside the church.

His work at St Paul's in Englewood will begin with a ministry to the homebound and the hospitalized—about two days a week plus Sunday mornings. But I cannot imagine that it will not evolve into remarkable and fascinating areas.

You can influence the direction of Stephen's contributions to our life at St Paul's by speaking with him about your hopes and dreams for the parish. He is a superb and enthusiastic listener; his energy jumps out in unexpected and creative ways; his care for the Gospel and its imperatives is profound; and his openness to ideas, new and old, will amaze you. He wants to be used, to contribute, to enjoy our life together.

You can contact Stephen at 908.616.9940 or smrozzelle@hotmail.com.

I am delighted to have him on our staff and commend him to you.



Musical Notes

St. Paul's Choir kicked off its Festive Season of Special Christmas Music with *The Service of Lessons and Carols* at the 10:30 am Sunday Service on December 20, 2009.

Of particular note were the beautifully sung Carols chosen by Music Director Paris Simms: they included works by Derek Healey, John Rutter and other notable composers, who excelled in this genre.

Stewardship Update

(as of 12/17/09)

Sixty of you had pledged \$113,845.20, or an average of \$1897.42 per pledger.

We still have a fair way to go before reaching our target for 2010 of nearly \$150,000. So please pitch in now with your pledges, if you haven't already done so.

A Profile of Bob Burr—a 51-Year Career as Sexton!

by Katharine Le Mée



Photo: Azim Mayadas

DID YOU KNOW? BOB BURR RECENTLY RETIRED FROM HIS 51-YEAR ASSOCIATION with St. Paul's Church by handing over his remaining duties as Sexton to Daniel Elivo and Gary Mason. Conversation with him brought out a number of fascinating things about St. Paul's Church that I certainly did not know and perhaps you don't either.

Bob and his first wife Svala arrived in the Englewood area from Boston in 1959. The position then available at St. Paul's was particularly attractive since it offered not only interesting work but also an apartment on the second floor, opposite the choir room, which the Burrs would subsequently make their home and where they would bring up their daughter Janet and their son Kenny. After the children had grown up and after the death of Svala, Bob continued to live in the apartment until his marriage to Dolores Gilhooly and subsequent move with her to Bergenfield.

During the tenure of Rectors Mitchell, Gillespie, McKelvey, and Near, Bob was on duty six days a week, 24 hours a day, except for his much needed one-month vacation in the summer. He has many vivid memories of St. Paul's parishioners—mostly "saints and extremely generous" to him and his family, a few "rascals"—and of goings-on in the church over the years:

Mrs. Atchley, a member of the Altar Guild and married to Dana Atchley, one time head of the Presbyterian Hospital in New York City, once came to Bob with a dilemma: "I guess I'll have to go to the city today. They're dedicating a 16-story building to Dana. I wonder if I can get a parking space!"

Mrs. Templeton, who once was in charge of St. Paul's Sunday School, was married to John Templeton, the CEO of the Franklin and Templeton Mutual Funds, who was knighted by the Queen of England. Lady Templeton was a frequent visitor to the Burr's apartment, since Svala, an accomplished seamstress, took care of all her clothes.

Walter Dierks worked for the Stevens Carpet Company in New York and was known to sell a million yards of fabric at a time to Sears and Roebuck. At one point he loaded up a truck with furniture that he had collected and gave it all to the church. Many items still remain from this donation. The red carpet running down the center aisle of the sanctuary was also his gift.

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A Profile of Bob Burr

From Page 2

David Barr, a close friend of the Burr family, was a parishioner and a young man of exceptional talent. At a time when plays were being produced in St. Paul's Church, he had the lead role in T.S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral*. One of the accolades read, "Tonight a star was born!" Tragically, at the time of Barr's college graduation, he was driving on Cape Cod and was killed in an automobile accident. *The Damascus Fund*, which offers assistance at the rector's discretion to young people in need, was created to honor Mr. Barr.

At one time there was a bowling team, consisting of both men and women, of which Bob was the president. The bowling team competed with teams in other Episcopal churches in the area, using their facilities.

Rector David Gillespie kept Bob and many others stepping with "something new every week." An architect by training, he had Bob and others haul the baptismal font from the back to the front of the church, where it is today, and remove a huge "shell," supposedly designed to focus the preacher's words and make them more audible, from behind the pulpit. Mr. Gillespie planned the Rogation Day service and designed the table to go outside (later the "free-standing altar"). He was also responsible for designing and planning the contours of the church buildings as they stand today. Bob had an important role to play in all these projects.

The security of the church was Bob's 24-hour responsibility, and he was often seen patrolling the property with his big German shepherd Misty. A well-guarded secret was the fact that Misty was actually afraid of everything, demonstrated clearly the night a burglar tried to break the glass of the door of what today is the Montessori School. Unleashing Misty was no help at all! He turned around and ran away as fast as he could go. The police arrived in a swarm and finally located the intruder, who had jumped into an outside garbage disposal on Church Street and was cowering inside. Less chaotic was the time when a thief broke into the Vestry Room at night, drilled a hole in the safe, and pulled out the Sunday offering plates. He then sat down at the table and patiently opened all the envelopes, taking the cash and leaving the checks!

Bob Burr has had an eyeful and an earful over the years. He has been there to witness many changes and keep track of the pulse of the church. Have a question about St. Paul's? Ask him. He is pretty sure to know the answer! □

January Birthdays

1/04	Lydia Near Kasper	1/19	John Raynolds
1/04	Ruby Marshall	1/21	Nicholas Coleburn
1/05	Joanne O'Neill	1/22	Ruby Campbell
1/09	Gale Abbott	1/23	Lolita Mayadas
1/11	Alvin Jones	1/24	Edith Holiday
1/13	Ann Davis	1/27	Pamela Abner
1/13	Gertrude Payne	1/28	Farida (Bibi) McDonald
1/14	Ruby Marshall	1/29	Monique Philbert
1/15	Marlene Bremer	1/30	Kenneth Barrow
1/18	Aubrey McDonald	1/30	Kenneth Near
1/19	Johanne Gambrill	1/31	James McLoone

The Road Ahead

In the aftermath of the Annual Parish Meeting reported on Page 2, I am reminded of a quote by *Orison Swett Marden*:

"When we are sure that we are on the right road there is no need to plan our journey too far ahead. No need to burden ourselves with doubts and fears as to the obstacles that may bar our progress. We cannot take more than one step at a time."

From my perspective as the new Parish Administrator of St. Paul's since March 2009, I do believe that we are on the right track. Our new Priest-in-Charge, Fr. Bob, joined us July 1, and—effective December 13—a re-energized Vestry has been seized with the task of taking forward the advances made by departing Co-Warden Dr. Collin Wolfe, continuing Co-Warden Issie Cherevko and the current Stewardship Committee Chairperson Ina Martinez. We are indeed lucky to have them on board and look forward to working with them and the new Co-Warden, Beverly Baker, while we chart the road ahead one step at a time.

- Azim Mayadas

**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

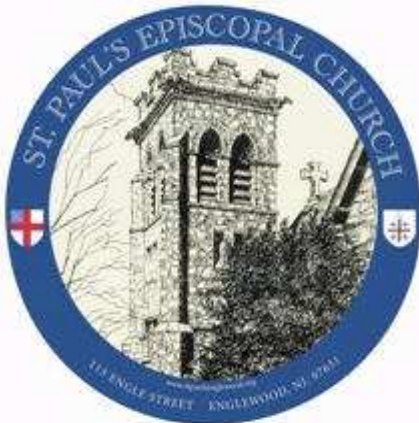
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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.stpaulsenglewood.org



St Paul's invites you to worship here!

***This church will feel like home,
and welcomes you—just as you are!***

Discover for yourself that in this Episcopal Church—

- **Mass is celebrated five times every week**
 - *Saturday at 5:00 pm*
 - *Sunday at 8:00 am*
 - *Sunday at 10:30 am with Choir*
 - *Tuesday at 10:00 am*
 - *Thursday at 6:30 pm followed by a potluck supper*
- **Catholic tradition is upheld**
- **Sacramental life is emphasized**
- **Thinking for yourself is encouraged, even demanded**
- **Great educational programs are open to kids/adults**
- **Superb music is sung and performed**
- **Powerful outreach programs help the poor**
- **We're an inclusive congregation, rich in diversity**

***Try us on a Saturday at 5 pm!
It's a special service for those new
to the Episcopal Church.***

Do Come and Join Us!

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

113 ENGLE STREET, ENGLEWOOD, NJ 07631

***St Paul's Clergy and Staff
Wish Our Parishioners a
Very Happy New Year!***